

BY TIM JUDAH IN DEIRBORNIEK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Minister gives regiments their merging orders

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY regiments were given their merging orders yesterday, with some of the most controversial amalgamations delayed until 1994. A full list of the mergers was issued by Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister.

The changed format for the Household Cavalry, in which the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals are to combine to form one "union" consisting of two squadrons from each regiment, is to take place in September next year.

The two regiments stand out because they are not being amalgamated like other regiments, but will retain their individual identities and their own uniform. However, the union of the two famous Household Cavalry regiments is still being strongly opposed behind the scenes.

Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, colonel of the Household Cavalry, said yesterday he still hoped the prime minister would agree to change the decision because of the "extreme difficulty" of maintaining a

mounted regiment for state ceremonial occasions from only one service regiment.

Among the last on the list are the Scottish regiments. The amalgamations of the Queen's Own Highlanders with the Gordon Highlanders, and the Royal Scots with the King's Own Scottish Borderers, are to be carried out in 1994.

Military sources said that the amalgamations had not been postponed for political reasons, in spite of the bitter campaign to save the regiments and the acknowledgement by John Major that there may have been a protest vote against the Conservatives during the Scottish by-election last week over the mergers.

The Scottish regimental mergers appear at the end of the list because of commitments abroad. Mergers do not normally take place when regiments are on foreign postings.

The Gordon Highlanders are going to Berlin for a two-year tour of duty. The Queen's Own Highlanders are cur-

rently in Germany. The Royal Scots and the King's Own Scottish Borderers are expected to be sent to Hong Kong after they have been amalgamated, as a way of getting to know each other.

The first army units to be affected by the cuts will be 40 Army Engineer Support Group, amalgamating early next year with the regimental headquarters of 28 Engineer Regiment. Other amalgamations then will include the 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments, and the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. The three battalions of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Royal Green Jackets will also be cut to form two battalions, in each case by the middle of next year.

Another controversial merger, that between the Cheshire Regiment and the Staffordshire Regiment, will take place in 1993. The Staffordshires asked for a delay because they have been abroad for a long time and wanted a two-year posting at

home. The amalgamation of the Gloucestershire Regiment and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment has been put off until 1994 after a special request from the Gloucesters, who want to celebrate their 300th anniversary before losing their individual identity. The Gloucesters were first formed as Sir John Gibson's Regiment in 1694.

Yesterday, Tom King, the defence secretary, said the executive committee of the Army Board had decided on the order of amalgamations

and they would go ahead as planned.

He emphasised that in the search for at least 10,000 redundancies among officers and senior non-commissioned officers over the next few years, military personnel from amalgamated regiments would not be at any disadvantage. "All will be treated the same," he pledged. Mr King is cutting the strength of the army from 156,000 to 116,000.

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Hamilton: forced into series of postponements

Programme and predictions for cuts in Britain's army

The timetable for cuts is:

Early 1992: 40 Army Engineer Support Group and RHQ 28 Eng Regt amalgamate; 30 Field Sqn Royal Eng disbands.

End 1992: 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regts amalgamate; 4th/7th Dragoon Guards and 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards amalgamate; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns Royal Regt of Fusiliers form two battalions; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns Royal Green Jackets form two battalions; 52 Field Sqn (Const) Royal Eng disbands; 34 Signal Sqn (Air Support) disbands.

Late 1992: 1st and 2nd Bns of 2nd

King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles form one battalion; 13th/10th Royal Hussars and 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars amalgamate; Life Guards and Blues and Royals merge; Royal Hussars and 14th/20th King's Hussars amalgamate; 48 Field Regt Royal Artillery disbands; 22 Signal Regt disbands.

Early 1993: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns Queen's Regt and Royal Hampshire Regt form two battalions; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns Light Inf form two battalions; 27 Field Regt Royal Artillery disbands; 50 Missile Regt Royal Artillery disbands.

Detailed planning for later years has not been completed, but the

following timetable is expected:

1993: 1st and 2nd Bns Royal Irish Rangers form general service battalion; 2nd battalions of Coldstream Guards and Scots Guards in suspended animation; Cheshire Regt and Staffordshire Regt amalgamate; Queen's Own Hussars and Queen's Royal Irish Hussars amalgamate; 1st and 4th Royal Tank Regts amalgamate; 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers and 17th/21st Lancers amalgamate; 45 Field Regt Royal Artillery disbands; 94 Locating Regt Royal Artillery disbands; 23 Eng Regt disbands; 10 Field Sqn Royal Eng disbands; 16 Field Sqn Royal Eng disbands; 229

Signal Sqn disbands.

1994: Queen's Own Highlanders and Gordon Highlanders amalgamate; Gloucestershire Regt and Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt amalgamate; Royal Scots and King's Own Scottish Borderers amalgamate; 2nd Bn Grenadier Guards in suspended animation; 2 Field Regt Royal Artillery disbands; 48 Air Defence Sqd Royal Artillery disbands; 26 Eng Regt disbands; 36 Field Sqn Royal Eng disbands; 1st Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regt disbands.

1995: 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles merge to form regiment of three battalions; 71 Amphibious Support Sqn Royal Eng disbands; 28 Signal Regt disbands; Northern Army Gp Air Support Sqn disbands.

By 1997, there will be a reduction of one further Gurkha battalion as a result of the British pull-out from Hong Kong. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, the Queen's Gurkha Signals and the Gurkha Transport Regt will each be reduced to one squadron and 680 Sqn Army Air Corps will disband.

Mr Johnson's candour is a precious gift at a time when people with HIV are all too often cruelly stigmatised. Michael Merson, director of the organisation's global programme on Aids, said in Geneva. "He is telling people that whatever their sexual preference, they simply cannot afford to consider themselves invulnerable. Unprotected intercourse with a casual partner may turn out to be a fatal error."

Aids virus hits more women than men

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE out of four Aids cases worldwide are due to heterosexual contact, and probably more women than men are now infected with HIV, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

Last week's disclosure by the American basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson that he is carrying the virus showed that the disease was heterosexually transmitted and exemplified the courage and tolerance needed to prevent it. The organisation said:

"Mr Johnson's candour is a precious gift at a time when people with HIV are all too often cruelly stigmatised. Michael Merson, director of the organisation's global programme on Aids, said in Geneva. "He is telling people that whatever their sexual preference, they simply cannot afford to consider themselves invulnerable. Unprotected intercourse with a casual partner may turn out to be a fatal error."

The organisation estimates that, in America, 100,000 people may already have been infected heterosexually, while the number in sub-Saharan Africa has probably topped six million. About 900,000 African children have been born with HIV due to maternal infection, it said.

Three quarters of the eight to ten million adults worldwide with HIV were infected heterosexually, it said.

Dr Merson praised Mr Johnson's announcement as "an act of great courage", adding: "He is telling not only Americans but his admirers around the world that Aids is a disease, not a punishment, and that it is preventable."

Mr Johnson, aged 32 and recently married, has committed himself to promoting awareness of the risk of Aids.

Haughey plans more sackings

Charles Haughey, Ireland's prime minister, is expected to dismiss three more ministers today as he consolidates his hold on Fianna Fail, after defeating a no-confidence motion in his leadership on Sunday. The junior ministers Mairéad Geoghegan-Quinn, Michael Smith, and Noel Treacy all said openly with Mr Haughey's opponents and refused to resign yesterday.

The expected dismissals follow those last week of Albert Reynolds, the finance minister, and Padraig Flynn, the environment minister. Mr Haughey's unexpectedly convincing win has given him the chance to reshuffle his cabinet.

Milk departure

The Milk Marketing Board announced yesterday that Charles Runge, its chief executive, is to leave by the end of the month. His departure is being attributed to the board's failure to make faster progress in shedding its monopoly powers, to turn it into a farmers co-operative. A joint statement by the board and Mr Runge said: "While there have been many significant developments, it has not proved possible to bring about the fundamental changes as rapidly as was envisaged."

£15,000 awards

The ombudsman for corporate estate agents, set up by a group of leading agents to combat the activities of unscrupulous and negligent operators, paid over £15,000 last year in compensation to victims of maladministration, malpractice or incompetence, it was disclosed in the first annual report published yesterday. The highest award approved by David Quayle, the ombudsman, was £2,750.

Calvey jury out

A Central Criminal Court jury will today resume deliberations on whether Linda Calvey, aged 43, killed Ronald Cook while he was on leave from a 16-year sentence for armed robbery. The prosecution says she shot her lover at her home in Plaistow, east London. Daniel Reece, 34, of Stratford, east London, said to have been hired to do the shooting. Both deny murder and conspiracy to murder.

Soldier jailed

A Falklands veteran who threatened to kill two army mates after a drinking binge was jailed by a court martial yesterday. Lance Sergeant Alexander Findlay, aged 30, who was wounded by a bomb in the battle for Tumbledown Mountain, believed he was reliving a battle as he held the gun barrel to their heads, it was said. Findlay, from Kilmarnock, Strathclyde, was dismissed from the army.

Major calls talks on food gap

By SHEILA GUNN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major has summoned farmers' leaders and supermarket chiefs to Downing Street on Friday to devise schemes for bridging Britain's £6 billion food and drink trade gap.

The prime minister has been alarmed to discover that, in spite of the efficiency of British agriculture and the sophisticated marketing skills of the food industry, imports are racing ahead of exports. The food summit will concentrate on persuading domestic consumers to buy home-grown products, and promoting British food abroad.

David Curry, the junior agriculture minister, circulated a paper in July warning ministers of the rising food gap. He proposed that the food and farming industry should be made more market-conscious by improving links within the food chain and making sure it produced what consumers wanted.

As a former MEP, Mr Curry was also alarmed that British farmers could lose out after 1992 when forced to compete with the more aggressive marketing methods of continental producers.

The one-day summit, including a lunch with English food and wine, will be attended by Mr Major, John Gummer, the agriculture minister, Mr Curry, David Naish, the new president of the National Farmers' Union, and leaders of the food production and retail industry.

The meeting will also be a prelude to wider political moves within the Conservative party to court the farmers' vote in the next general election.

GCSE advisers threaten to quit over coursework

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE government's new man in charge of the GCSE will face a revolt from his senior advisers today when they tell him that the prime minister's request for end-of-term examinations to be the main test of a 16-year-old's ability is not acceptable.

Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, former head of Margaret Thatcher's think tank and appointed part-time chairman of the School Examination and Assessment Council earlier this year, will face claims that the recommendations of each subject committee on coursework have been doctored before they reach him or are not reaching him at all.

At least two members of the council's 20-strong English committee, which is meeting Lord Griffiths today, will resign if he continues to accept John Major's demand that only 20 per cent of the GCSE examination should be judged on coursework done throughout the year and often judged by the pupils' own teachers.

Lord Griffiths is facing attacks on both sides: from Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, who appointed him to seize the initiative from the educational establishment and who expects him to deliver what the prime minister wants; and from the council members he inherited from a more benign regime in favour of children being judged on the work done during the school year rather than on yearly examinations.

Roy Atkinson, Northamptonshire's director of education and chairman of SEAC's English committee,

said that today's meeting was routine. "This is the first chance the members have had since Lord Griffiths became chairman for him to clarify his views and to explain what he expects from all the subject committees."

A senior member of the committee took a different view: "We have asked for this meeting because we want to know whether our recommendations are reaching the new chairman and being rejected, or never reaching him at all. We are in favour of coursework in English, but that view is not reflected in the official advice."

"We want to know what Lord Griffiths thinks. We quite accept the secretary of state's right to reject our views, but we do think he should be told what they are."

The new-style GCSEs are due to enter schools next summer, to be sat in 1994. The current proposals are that coursework will be accepted for 30 per cent of the marks in English, 20 per cent in mathematics and between 25 and 30 per cent in science. In last year's examinations, about half the papers were judged on coursework.

● A Roman Catholic framework for religious education has been condemned as "a blanching of world religions" by traditionalists in the church (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Fr Francis Marsden, a priest in Liverpool, has published a criticism of the syllabus, which was approved by the education department of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He says it contains no claim for the "absolute truth" of Catholicism.

The syllabus, *Weaving the Web*, has been banned by the Birmingham archdiocese. According to Roger Stacey, of the right-wing Catholic group Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, it "is causing great unease among Catholic parents and others in this country". Fr Marsden's pamphlet provides a "devastating and unanswerable criticism", he says.

About 500 Catholic secondary schools are understood to be using the syllabus. Mr Vincent Nichols, general secretary of the Bishops' Conference, said: "The point that people are missing is that it is a pedagogical framework. Fr Marsden and others say it does not contain the doctrine they think is needed. It is not supposed to. It is a framework, and invites teachers to include the necessary teaching."

Dr West will compile a



Cue for action: Susan Thompson with one of the trophies she has won at pool

Champion fights 'sex bias' pool ban

By TIM JONES

A WOMAN pool player will appear before an industrial tribunal in Leeds next Monday claiming sexual discrimination over a decision to bar her from becoming a member of the Professional Pool Players Organisation.

Susan Thompson, aged 21, who is unemployed and lives with her family in Runcorn, Cheshire, believes that the professional body has refused her application on four occasions because she is too good for most of them.

She is being backed in her case by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which says that it is becoming increasingly angry with the argument that such organisations are non-profit-making, and therefore free to engage in prejudice.

Miss Thompson has beaten Britain's top men in tournaments, and last Sunday won the women's section in the British Association of Pool Table Operators tournament in Blackpool.

Miss Thompson said: "Although some men accept they have been beaten by a good player, a lot of them just can't accept it. All I want to do is to make my living at what I am good at."

A spokesman for the PPO said: "The decision not to admit her was taken by the players. Some thought she is just not good enough while others said attitude is important."

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Maxwell pathologist to start tests

By LIN JENKINS

A LEADING Home Office pathologist who examined the body of Robert Maxwell shortly before his burial disclosed yesterday that he will conduct his own tests into the cause of death on behalf of insurers who had Mr Maxwell's life covered for £20 million against accidental death.

Iain West, head of forensic medicine at Guy's hospital, London, flew to Jerusalem before Sunday's funeral with the consent of the Maxwell family. The family had decided to rely on the report by Spanish pathologists rather than have a second post-mortem examination in another country.

Dr West will compile a

report from his investigations and results of tests being done in Spain, but is unable to say when he will reach a conclusion. "It all depends on the Spanish authorities and on tests I am doing," he said. "I have no idea when my findings will be complete."

The insurance companies are understood to be investigating the full circumstances surrounding the death of the publisher, as is routine when a potential payout is so large.

Investigators have been on board the Lady Ghislaine, moored at Santa Cruz, Tenerife, but it is not clear whether they were working for the family or for the insurance companies. The policy, bro-

kered by Willis Wrightson, was renewed last July.

The full report of the post-mortem examination carried out last Wednesday at the Institute for Forensic Medicine at San Lazaro, Gran Canaria, where Mr Maxwell's body was taken after being hauled from the sea, is not expected until next week. Tests are being carried out on blood and tissue samples sent last week to mainland Spain, where laboratory facilities are more sophisticated than those in the Canary Islands. The tests include a routine search for poisons and drugs.

Carlos Lopez Lamela, director of the institute, said last week that the initial finding

was that Mr Maxwell died of natural causes having suffered cardiac respiratory failure.

Isabel Oliva, the investigating magistrate, conducting the enquiry into the curious circumstances surrounding Mr Maxwell's disappearance from his yacht, has asked some of the nine Britons, one American and one Dane to expand on their original statements made to the Guardia Civil. Gus Rankin, the captain, his crew and the Lady Ghislaine have been ordered not to leave Spain until her enquiries are complete. She has also asked the Spanish hydrographic authority to provide maps of currents in the waters around Tenerife, where Mr Maxwell is believed to have gone overboard, and Gran Canaria.

Keith Hazell, British consul on the island, said that the judicial police could be called in to the enquiry if it were considered necessary. The report of the investigation would be sent to the high court, which would decide whether to take any action.

"There are all sorts of rumours floating around, mostly generated by the press," he said. "The one about the possibility of poisoning triggering a heart attack does not originate from the enquiry, as I understand it, and does seem rather tortuous and unnecessary. An air embolism would have been much easier, at least that would not have left a trace."

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LAVICOLISA

£60,000 for collector who was sold fake vintage Rolls-Royce

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN AMERICAN vintage car collector was awarded £60,000 damages in the High Court yesterday against Coys of Kensington, the specialist dealers and auctioneers, for selling him a fake 1913 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost.

John Silberman, from Tampa, Florida, successfully sued the company for fraudulent misrepresentation after he discovered, six years after buying the car in 1983, that it was a 1922 model worth half the amount he paid for it.

Mr Justice Macpherson said: "This cannot be a case of innocent misrepresentation. I'm sure beyond reasonable doubt that the false representations were made knowingly."

The case was one of a series of vintage car frauds investigated by *The Times* earlier this year which led to calls by trading experts for tougher penalties against malpractice in the trade. Yesterday a spokesman for the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, whose members are responsible for implementing the 1968 Trade Descriptions Act, said the case illustrated that the law was being flouted by a minority of motor traders.

Mr Silberman, aged 46, bought the car from Coys in April 1983 for more than £51,000 as an investment and

to compete in the coast-to-coast American Transcontinental Reliability Tour which is open only to pre-1915 vehicles. He discovered the fraud when he tried to resell it in 1989 to an English collector who told him it was a fake.

The judge said that Jeffrey Pattinson, managing director of Coys, falsely represented that the car was registered in 1913 and bore the chassis number 2513. Coys knew about its dubious past, having been forced to take it back in 1982 from John Lawson, a businessman from Surrey, after he started a legal action for misrepresentation.

The company decided, however, to sell it to Mr Silberman as a 1913 car and also "coined" documents to make it look as though it had sold it to another buyer in America, which it alleged knew about its chequered history, on Mr Silberman's behalf.

The judge said: "No one expects many Silver Ghosts to be exactly as they were made but it's important that at least the chassis frame should be attributable to the year it's said to have been made."

Jonathan Harley, an authority on Silver Ghosts, had told the court that a plate with the 1913 chassis number 2513 had been fixed on the fire wall of the engine and the real number filed off the front

cross member. The only significant pre-war parts were the carburettor, coil, air pump, air regulator, hand pump, fuel and oil gauge while most other parts were stamped in accord with its genuine chassis number.

The judge said that he did not believe Coys' evidence that Mr Pattinson told Mr Silberman that the car's origins were dubious or that it had a chequered history. He said it seemed to stretch credulity to accept that Mr Silberman would have bought the car under these circumstances.

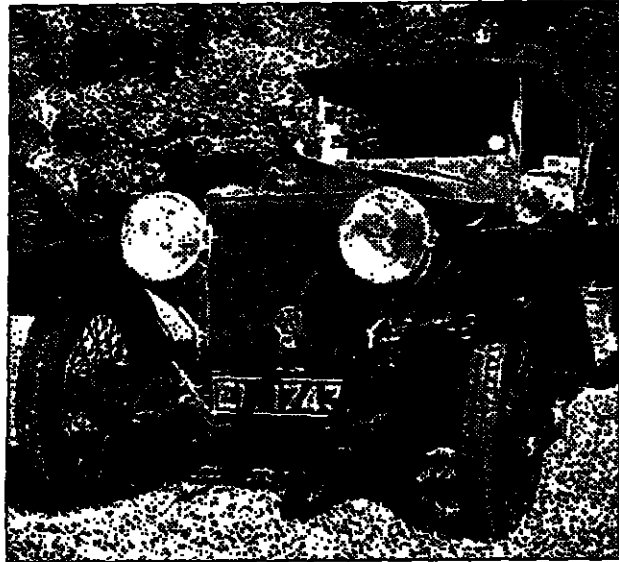
Coys was reticent about the car's date of manufacture and its chassis in the advertisement it placed in an American magazine which first attracted Mr Silberman. "When Mr Silberman was present with a keen desire to buy and a well-stocked cheque book their reticence disappeared," the judge said.

The judge awarded Mr Silberman the difference between £75,000, the current value of the car as a fake, and £135,000, its value if it were the genuine 1913 number 2513. Mr Silberman, who still owns the car, will receive 15 per cent interest on yesterday's award, dated from the issue of the writ on April 20, 1990, and his costs.

He said after the case: "It has been worth all the effort. It was an extremely well camouflaged car. Even the owners of other Rolls-Royces, looking at the car and taking a cursory look under the bonnet, did not realise it was a fake."

Phillip Knight, vice-chairman of the quality standards committee of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, said: "The case illustrates that a small minority of members of the motor trade give it a bad name, even at the upper end of the market."

Geoff Dosseter, director of public affairs of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said: "The outcome of the case emphasises the liability dealers in classic cars have to properly identify the age and specification of a vehicle and to ensure that the correct description is passed to potential buyers."



Bad vintage: the "1913" Silver Ghost made in 1922



Child's play: Annette Howard, chateaine of Castle Howard, with one of the lots

Brideshead 'car boot' sale races away

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A TATTY George II walnut chair got things going. Lot two, and estimated at £900 despite a threatening tendency to disperse its stuffing, it raced smartly up to £9,000 as much of Yorkshire gasped.

From that moment there was no stopping the bidders at the Brideshead, sorry, Castle Howard, sale yesterday.

Joe Hardy, the Texan owner of a Pittsburgh "leisure complex" and incidentally Lord of the Manor of Henley-in-Arden (he bought it two years ago at another auction for £35,000) chewed a cigar of tycoon proportions.

His trophies included a terracotta relief from the facade of Nash's opera house in the Haymarket, bought from the Tate Gallery by the late George Howard in the 1960s. It will be given to Castle Howard and integrated into his resort.

After a bidding battle with Mr Hardy, a 16th-century Italian marble bust fetched £59,000 from Edric van Vredenburg, a London dealer. The bust overtook its estimate by £70,000, partly because a chunk from the sculpture's drapery had been identified by Harry Dalmenny of Sotheby's, organisers of the sale.

Simon Howard, the resident aristocrat whose family cache fuelled the prices, said as he stalked the corridors of the stately pile he is culling in order to survive: "I am cautiously pleased." By the end of the first day the total sales were £1.23 million, overtaking the amount estimated for the three-day auction.

Not bad for what had been billed as the "car boot sale of the decade".

Jewish PC wins right not to work on Sabbath

A policeman won a two-year fight yesterday for the right not to work on a Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

PC Nigel Brown, aged 32, of Ilford, Essex, who has won bravery awards, gave up work suffering from stress after his superiors decided he could no longer swap shifts with colleagues. He dropped his claim for racial discrimination at an industrial tribunal in Chelsea, west London, after Scotland Yard adopted a new policy of allowing officers the right to time off for "religious needs".

Eldred Tabachnik, for the police, told the hearing: "The Metropolitan Police is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment and is anxious to recruit members of all ethnic groups, irrespective of their religious beliefs, to all areas of police work."

Prince rides out

The Prince of Wales went fox-hunting with the Beaufort Hunt on his Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire yesterday, his first hunt of the year. The outing follows widespread criticism of his favourite hunt, the Quorn, for breaking hunting rules. John Bryant, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "The Prince has made it very clear that wildlife is in the British countryside for him to torment and kill."

Light rail switch

London Transport is to be stripped of its powers to run the Docklands Light Railway, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, announced yesterday. Control over the light railway, which carries 15,000 passengers an hour, will be transferred to the London Docklands Development Corporation. Mr Rifkind said: "London Transport called the decision 'ill-advised'."

Lawyers pull out

The legal team representing Paul Lee, director of Orkney Islands' social work department, was forced to withdraw yesterday from the judicial enquiry into the seizure of nine allegedly abused local children after the government refused to pay his legal costs. The Scottish Office was asked to cover his costs after the British Association of Social Workers, funding Mr Lee, said it had run out of money.

Leaders mark Rushdie's 1,000 dark days

CROWDED into a small room on the first floor of a London bookstore, supporters of Salman Rushdie yesterday marked the one thousandth day since the passing of the Islamic death sentence against the author by reading statements of support sent by politicians and writers from around the world (Matthew

d'Ancona writes). Those sending messages included Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, Vaclav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia, and Nadine Gordimer, this year's Nobel laureate, while others paid tribute to Mr Rushdie the

playwright said: "He has retained a strength that is quite breathtaking. I am proud to be his friend."

The gathering, one of many events held around the world in support of Mr Rushdie, replaced the 24-hour vigil due to be held at London's Westminster Central Hall, which was postponed after warnings

from the Foreign Office that it might delay the release of Terry Waite. Mr Rushdie last week accused the Foreign Office of bad faith in its "abandonment of the position that it ought never to trade in human rights" and criticised "the foolishness of establishing a public linkage between two unrelated events".

Doctor faces action over patient release

By PETER DAVENPORT

A PSYCHIATRIST who released a mental patient from hospital two days before she stabbed an 11-year-old girl to death is to face disciplinary action, it was disclosed last night.

Trent Regional Health Authority said it had accepted the findings of a committee of enquiry that Neil Silvester had made a "serious error of clinical judgment" in releasing Carol Ann Barratt, aged 24, from the psychiatric unit at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, where she was being held under the Mental Health Act. She had earlier threatened another young girl with a knife and tried to strangle a hospital visitor.

The authority decided last night that Dr Silvester should be disciplined, although it had not decided what form the action would take. Dr Silvester could be dismissed, or lose some of his legal powers to practise as a psychiatrist in similar cases.

The authority said it accepted that there was a prima

facie case against Dr Silvester which could result in "serious disciplinary action", and it was starting proceedings against him. It was also notifying him that it was considering withdrawing his powers to commit people to hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983, or to give evidence to a court before it orders the compulsory detention of a patient.

Sheffield crown court ordered last month that Barratt be detained indefinitely after she pleaded guilty, on the grounds of diminished responsibility, to the manslaughter of Emma Brodie at a shopping centre in Doncaster on April 16.

After the case, during which the judge called for an enquiry into the circumstances surrounding Barratt's release, Dr Silvester was sent on "special leave" on full pay by the health authority.

It is expected that a decision on the type of disciplinary measures to be taken against him will be made within the next few weeks.

Rail terminal will create 8,000 jobs

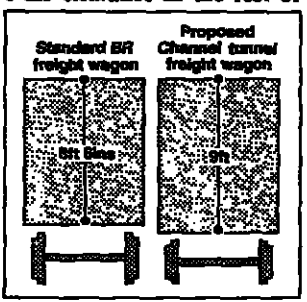
By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT thousand jobs will be created in the next ten years because of British Rail's decision to build Scotland's Channel tunnel freight terminal at Mossend, the Lanarkshire development agency said yesterday. The £40 million road-rail terminal will be built on Scotland's direct link with continental markets when the Channel tunnel begins operations in June 1993, and help to attract new businesses to offset the impact of steel closures on the local economy.

The Mossend site, which includes 800 acres for future development, completes BR's network of nine regional freight terminals to be built at Wakefield, Manchester, Birmingham, Middlesbrough, Cardiff, and Willeston and Stratford in London.

Critics of BR's scheme fear, however, that rail planners have failed to come up with convincing solutions to the incompatibility of British and European rail networks. BR's loading gauge, which deter-

mines the height and width of rolling stock that can be taken under bridges, through tunnels, and past lineside structures, is considerably smaller. BR has rebuilt almost 100 bridges in Kent to give the Southern Region the same 6 ft 6 ins clearance as the rest of



the network. That is still 6 ins short of the 9 ft clearance needed for most continental freight consignments. But by building a fleet of 3,500 wagons with smaller wheels, thereby lowering the loading platform by 6 ins, BR is confident it will be able to make British compatible with the rest of Europe.

Woman takes charge of the Street

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CORONATION Street, Britain's most popular television programme, is to be produced by a woman for the first time in 17 years after the BBC poached its producer of five years, Mervyn Watson, to help to improve the corporation's popular drama output.

Carolyn Reynolds, the former producer of Granada's daytime soap opera *Families*, returns from maternity leave to start work on *Coronation Street* on January 1. The show was last produced by a woman, Susie Hush, in 1974.

"I am thrilled," Ms Reynolds said. "David Liddiment [Granada's head of entertainment] came to see me at home and as I was standing there winding the baby, he said: 'I've got something to ask you.' It came as a wonderful surprise."

Ms Reynolds, aged 33,



On set: Ms Reynolds outside the Rovers Return

who began her career in television 13 years ago as a production assistant on *Coronation Street*, said yesterday that she would not tamper with the programme's winning formula. "It's there, at the top of the ratings, and I will respect that. There won't be any

change for change's sake," she said.

In particular, *Coronation Street* would not treat women's issues any differently. "It does not make a great deal of difference if a man or a woman is producing the programme," she said.

Mr Watson, who said that

he would be sad to leave *Coronation Street*, takes over as the BBC's deputy head of drama series under Peter Creggan on December 9. The 46-year-old producer of 723 episodes of *Coronation Street*, the thrillers *Floodtide* and *Wipe Out*, and the dramatisation of Jeffrey Archer's *First Among Equals*, will work with Mr Creggan to develop several new series.

Mark Shivas, head of BBC television drama, said: "This new appointment demonstrates how much importance we place on popular drama at a time when the BBC has committed considerable extra funding to peak-time drama programmes."

Last week, the BBC announced that it was to spend £160 million - £40 million a year over the next four years - to rejuvenate popular drama and comedy on BBC1.

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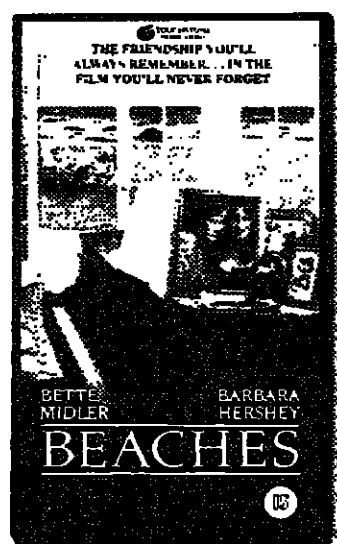
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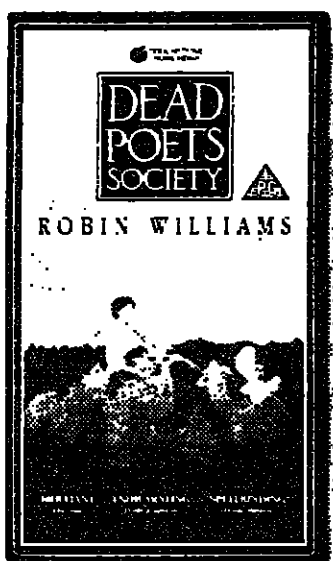
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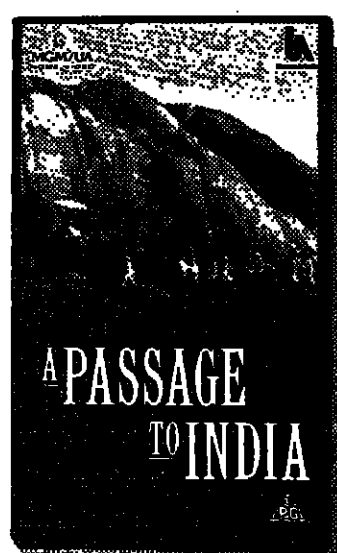
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Health claims on food baffle the shopper

TOO many products on supermarket shelves are littered with "healthy", "environment-friendly", or "wholesome" labels, according to the Consumers' Association, which this week is stepping up its campaign to have them banned.

Although the government agrees that misleading health claims cannot continue, no legislation is planned at present.

A survey by trading standards officers in East Sussex has found more than six out of ten products labelled "natural" contravened agriculture ministry guidelines on use of such a claim.

Last week, Walsall trading standards office prosecuted two companies marketing aerosol products as CFC-free and environment-friendly. It argued that the hydrocarbon propellants — a mixture of propane, isobutane and butane — used in place of discredited CFC, were pollutants in their own right and that the term "environment-friendly" should not be used. It lost both cases.

The nub of the confusion is that there is no legal definition of terms being used. Trading officials and consumer groups say that no one has decided when a product is "environment-friendlier".

National Consumer Week began yesterday amid complaints of meaningless and misleading food labels. Louise Hidalgo reports

a favourite phrase of some packaging copywriters. Consumer groups believe that the term means very little, and should be banned.

Government guidelines on when a product can claim to be natural or organic, when it may be marketed as low in fat and when it should be labelled merely "reduced in fat", do exist. However, they are voluntary and widely ignored. Campaigners complain that manufacturers are free to play on health worries, fads and ignorance.

The battle for the £700 million yellow fat market — between makers of butter and their fiercest challenger, Unilever, with its butter alternatives, and imitators — has spawned half-fat, mixed-fat, fat-reduced and very low-fat.

None of these claims is, as yet, legally defined. Consumers have to scour the backs of packs to discover the two grams of fat to be

found in one "low-fat" yoghurt from the 90s to be found in the "low-fat" spread a little further along the display cabinet.

They have to find out for themselves that while they may think that Flora Extra Light, for example, contains less fat than comparable brands such as Gold or Delight, all contain 40 per cent fat, while Vitalite has 59 per cent.

When a health charity, the Coronary Prevention Group, looked at "low fat" claims it found that 44 per cent of them appeared on high-fat foods and referred merely to the removal of some fat.

Farley's Low Sugar Rusks contain as much sugar as digestive and other sweet biscuits, but the package does go on to explain that the rusks contain "less sugar than Farley's original rusks".

Crosse & Blackwell's Healthy Balance baked beans contain "25 per cent less added sugar and salt" without explaining on the front of the can the basis of the comparison, which is with the company's standard baked beans. However, the sugar and salt content in Healthy Balance was only slightly less than in ordinary baked beans, according to the nutrition reference, McCance and Widdowson.

In the diet-drink market, shoppers influenced by Coca-Cola's advertising for low-calorie Diet Coke might think that all diet drinks have a similarly low-calorie content. In fact, other diet products can contain 20 times more calories than another. Diet 7-Up, for example, has fewer than three calories a can, Diet Sprite has 5.6 calories, while Diet Sparkling Ribena — a



Eating their words: packs bear vague health claims but few facts, campaigners say

"reduced calorie" drink — contains 63 calories.

Even in the organic sector, where terms such as "pure" and "farm-assured" are common, control of who can and who cannot use such claims is limited to voluntary schemes run by

organisations such as the Soil Association.

From October 1993, manufacturers will be obliged, when making a nutrition claim, to give full nutrition details on the label. This is what the Consumers' Association is campaigning for, but

it wants it on all labels. "Nutrition information is the most important tool for consumers who want to make informed choices for a healthy, balanced diet," says Anna Bradley, of the association. "Health claims cannot take the place of this."

CLAIMS ON FOOD	
Natural, made from natural ingredients, brand names such as 'Nature's Choice'	No legal definition: government's voluntary guidelines say terms should be used only on products from natural ingredients to which nothing has been added and which have been made with minimal processing
Natural goodness, naturally better, nature's way	No legal definition: government's voluntary guidelines say words are meaningless and should not be used
Organic	No legal definition: no national standards, but symbols awarded by Soil Association, Conservation Grade, Organic Farmers & Growers and UK Register of Organic Food Standards if producers meet standards laid down by individual organisations. EC regulation of use of organic takes effect next July
Speciality selected, healthy, wholesome	No legal definition: food advisory committee says claims are meaningless and recommends they should be banned
No artificial additives, flavourings or preservatives	No legal definition: consumer groups say phrase misleads because natural products are not necessarily safe or natural to that particular food
Low calorie	Legally defined: can only be used if product contains fewer than 40 kilocalories per 100g, per 100ml or per serving
Reduced calorie	Legally defined: term can be used only if product contains less than 75 per cent of the calories found in a similar, standard product
Low in fat	No legal definition: government's voluntary guidelines say term should be used only if fat content is not more than 5g per 100g
Reduced fat	No legal definition: food advisory committee is recommending term should be used only if fat content is 75 per cent, or less, of similar product
Light in calories, light and lite	No legal definition: food advisory committee is recommending ambiguous claims such as light should be explained and justified on label
Low cholesterol	Legally defined: can be used only if product contains 0.05 per cent cholesterol, or less; label must also inform consumer how much polyunsaturated fat product contains
Helps reduce cholesterol	No legal definition: no guidelines
No added sugar, unsweetened	No legal definition: consumer groups say terms can mislead because although products may not contain added sugars, they may contain natural sugar, such as fructose, glucose, or sweetening agents, which is similarly high in calories and damaging to teeth
Sugar free	No legal definition: government's voluntary guidelines say term should be used only if sugar content is not more than 0.2g per 100g

NB: all claims on food products are legally bound not to mislead consumers under the Trade Descriptions Act, the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Labelling Regulations 1984. Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Consumers' Association

Charities fight 'lies' over animal tests

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING medical charities yesterday launched a campaign to justify the use of animals in experiments, and attacked the growing use of violence and intimidation by anti-vivisectionists.

They said that many of the biggest advances in public health, including the development of vaccines, transplant surgery, antibiotics and other life-saving drugs would have been impossible without laboratory animals.

In an initiative they accept may put scientists, researchers and part-time volunteers at increasing risk of reprisals, eight charities said that the time had come to take a stand against the "lies and disinformation" issued by extreme animal rights supporters.

The lives of scientists are endangered, charity workers are being threatened, and the High Street shops in which they work are being damaged by extremists who have little idea of the importance of animals in medical research, the campaign organisers said.

The newly-founded Research for Health Charities Group launched its programme in London yesterday. It includes the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign, the British Heart Foundation, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Wellcome Trust.

Together, they and three other charities — Action Research, the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust and the Muscular Dystrophy Group — spend £200 million a year on medical research, of which they said only £10 million involved animal experiments.

According to the organisers, extremists have carried out more than 100 attacks on research establishments or charity shops this year, and about 350 in the last six years. These included bombs planted under the cars of scientists and incendiary devices placed in charity shops.

"Scientists have been slow to speak out because they don't want to be bombed or killed," said Bridget Ogilvie, chairman of the group and director of the Wellcome Trust which provided the first grant in Britain for AIDS research.

"The distortions of the truth are so extreme that we have to take a stand," she said. "Much of the disinformation about medical research is at best ill-informed and at worst misleading. I am outraged by the criminal actions of these people."

Scientific colleagues at personal risk. "Scientists have been slow to speak out because they don't want to be bombed or killed," she said.

The group was spending £200 million this year on research, but only £10 million of that sum involved animals, said Nick Wright, director of clinical research at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Professor Wright said: "We have the strongest laws in the world governing the use of animals." Animals had enabled the production of vaccines against polio, whooping cough, typhoid and other diseases.

Desmond Julian, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said: "There is no way we are going to be able to abolish the use of animals in medical research in the foreseeable future. Drugs developed in this way to treat heart disease have had an enormous effect, but we are still largely ignorant of the causes of congenital heart disease and coronary heart disease."

According to the group, about 3.2 million animals were involved in scientific experiments last year in the laboratories of British universities, medical schools and drug companies.

These involved 2.69 million rodents, about 245,000 birds, 107,000 fish, 90,000 rabbits, 18,000 sheep, 11,400 dogs, 9,000 pigs, 5,000 cattle and 4,400 cats.

The group of charities is preparing information for GPs and schools to counter what it regards as propaganda from animal rights extremists.



Bubble boy: Andrew Staples hits a low note while fellow choirboys at St Paul's Cathedral sing at the launch of the Royal Mail's Christmas stamps yesterday. The five stamps, featuring nativity scenes designed by David Driver, head of design at The Times, go on sale today

Embassy warns of Mafia in Britain

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH embassy officials in Rome have sent a secret report to the government urging increased action to prevent Italian Mafia gangs expanding their operations into Britain.

The report, drawn up a month ago by a diplomat and a Scotland Yard detective on secondment to the embassy, is understood to be based on discussions with the Italian authorities. It has been circulated to senior figures in the Foreign Office, Home Office, Scotland Yard and customs, and suggests that Britain could face increasing Mafia interest in drugs and money laundering, although neither names

nor numbers of Mafia figures in Britain are given.

The report calls for greater international co-operation between police and government agencies and a streamlining of judicial systems as the European Community liberalises its internal borders next year. Many investigators in this country do not believe that Mafia groups have established themselves and some have suggested that the warning is exaggerated.

In Italy, the Mafia has been defined by Pino Arlacchi, a sociologist, as a series of powerful gangs or clans based mainly around Palermo in Sicily and Naples in the

southwest. Other Mafia gangs operate further north.

The Rome report was drafted by John Ashton, the first secretary, and Detective Chief Inspector Gus Jones, who became Britain's first drug liaison officer in Italy more than a year ago. He is an expert on money laundering and worked for the national drug intelligence unit before moving to Rome.

The unit regularly receives assessments from officers abroad. The Rome report is said to be very unusual because instead of passing into the files, it went into the Whitehall network. Two years ago, Carlo

Ciampi, the governor of the Bank of Italy, issued a warning of the threat to international banking from a Mafia need to launder cash. London has long been seen as part of the laundering chain.

The number of convictions in Britain of Sicilians or Italians linked to Mafia gangs still remains small. For years, police officially denied any Mafia presence until Operation Devotion, organised by customs officers, discovered the organisation was using Britain as a staging post for heroin bound for America and disclosed the presence of several important mafiosi and their underlings.

MP 'sent letter to boy, 13'

GREVILLE Janner, the Labour MP, sent a 13-year-old boy a letter after they allegedly slept together, a child sex abuse trial at Leicester crown court was told yesterday.

The letter, signed "Safe journey, Love Greville" and dated July 7, 1975, was produced in court while Paul Winston, now aged 30, was giving evidence. Winston said that he had kept other letters from the 63-year-old MP during their affair which lasted for two years.

Winston told the court that he was sexually abused by Mr Janner, a QC, while in the care of social services. Winston claimed sex acts took place at Mr Janner's London home and at hotels.

He was giving evidence on behalf of Frank Beck, aged 49, a former head of children's homes, who has denied 27 charges of physical and sexual abuse of children and former members of staff. The trial continues today.



Janner: boy claims they had two-year affair

Relative aided man wanted for shooting

A father believed to have shot the man who killed his young son is still being sought by police. Stephen Owen, aged 36, a diabetic from the Isle of Sheppey, who has not been seen since early on Sunday morning, is thought to have been given fresh supplies of insulin by a relative.

Police say that a man of Mr Owen's description drove to the home of Kevin Taylor, a truck driver, aged 32, near Sittingbourne, Kent, and shot him twice in the back as he walked to a pub with his girlfriend, Alison Barratt. Miss Barratt was also hit by some of the pellets. She is now at a secret address, under police guard.

Mr Taylor is in a serious condition, but his life is not believed to be threatened. He was released from jail recently after being given an 18-month sentence for reckless driving when his tipper truck ran over and killed Darren Owen, aged 12, in Sittingbourne in October 1989. It was disclosed in his trial that he had never passed a driving test, had no licence and had a string of motoring convictions.

Police cleared

Detective Constable Kevin Hucker, aged 34, and Police Constable Jeffrey Mitchell, aged 39, both of the Battersea crime squad, have been cleared at the Central Criminal Court in London of conspiring to pervert justice after a criminal claimed they had planted a knife on him.

Body found

The body of Sean Stafford, 21, of Cleator, Cumbria, who disappeared three months ago, has been found in a barn that had already been searched by police.

Soldier killed

An army enquiry has begun after David Smith, aged 24, a Grenadier Guardsman, died when a trench collapsed on him during a battle exercise near Thetford, Norfolk.

Husband shot

Paul Saxon, aged 23, of Barnsley, South Yorkshire, was critically ill in hospital after his wife accidentally shot him through the eye while playing with an air rifle.

Egg man fined

James Wagner, aged 43, of Penrhaw, Tyne and Wear, was fined £3,025 by Washington magistrates for possessing more than 500 protected birds' eggs.

Groom flees

Christopher Wilson, a prisoner let out of Nottingham jail to get married, is on the run after fleeing from his wedding reception in Derby.

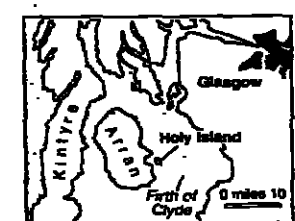
Buddhists to harness island's spiritual aura

By KERRY GILL

THE spiritual heritage of Holy Island, the small outcrop inhabited by wild ponies, sheep and goats off Arran in the Firth of Clyde, is expected to be reinforced by a Tibetan Buddhist community which intends using the island as an inter-denominational retreat.

The Buddhists are trying to raise £1 million with which to buy Holy Island from its present owners and build a contemplative retreat and two temples, one at each end of the two-mile long island.

A major attraction of Holy Island to the Buddhists, from the Samye Ling Tibetan centre at Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire, is its re-



ligious past. St Molios, an Irish missionary of royal blood, lived in a cave on the island for some time during the sixth century. He died in 639 having made two pilgrimages to Rome and having become abbot of Leinster. Tourists from Lamlash on Arran regularly cross the bay, once a Viking base and used as an anchorage for the British North Sea fleet before 1914, to the

island. Ancient pre-Christian faces carved into cliffs can still be spotted and there are remains of a monastery destroyed during the Reformation. The waters of St Molios's Well are believed to contain healing properties and the large, granite "judgment rock", reputed to have been St Molios's table, stands near by.

Catherine Morris, who farms with her husband Jim, bought Holy Island eight years ago and lived there until two years ago when they were forced to return to the Scottish mainland because of Mr Morris's ill-health. Yesterday she said: "We put the island on the market just before the recession. Although we have had interest from a number of

parties I think it would be wonderful for the Buddhists and their plan for a retreat because of their spiritual outlook.

"We wanted to farm on the island but that would have meant disturbing the animals. All the animals are wild. There is a herd of Eriskay ponies, Soay sheep, feral goats, seals and peregrine falcons," said Mrs Morris.

Tom McCarthy, of the Samye Ling centre, said money was being donated by Buddhists around the world. "We weren't looking for an island but after Mrs Morris approached us, our retreat master, Lama Yeshe Losal, visited Holy Island and was very impressed, largely because of its spiritual his-

tory. The place is suitable for contemplation and study. It has been sanctified by all the intense prayer and devotion of the past," said Mr McCarthy. He said the main interdenominational retreat would be based near the lighthouse on the east coast with temples at the northern and southern extremities, each capable of housing 25 monks.

In 1988 the Samye Ling centre completed their temple near Eskdalemuir. Decorated with gilded pillars, golden Buddhas, dragons and mythological birds, it was inaugurated by the Khenin Tai Situpa, patriarch of the Karma Kagyu Buddhist tradition, and Sir David Steel, a patron of the centre.

Heseltine shrugs off Tory protests on council tax

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROBERT MORGAN

ANXIOUS Conservative MPs sprung a Commons ambush on Michael Heseltine yesterday as he outlined his plans for replacing the poll tax with a council tax.

A string of Tories, mostly drawn from southern seats with high property prices, interrupted the opening of the environment secretary's speech to complain that the council tax would penalise people living in London and

LOCAL FINANCE

the southeast and to demand further concessions to cushion the impact of a switch to a property-based tax in April 1993.

Mr Heseltine shrugged off the protests, insisting that the proposed tax was a "fair and straightforward" way of raising local government revenue. The government had already responded to concerns about the tax liability of people living in modest but highly priced homes by adding an eighth band to the top of the scale of property values that will determine the level of the tax.

Despite the vehemence of some of the protests, government whips are confident that when MPs vote tonight on the second reading of the bill they can contain a planned revolt to small proportions. They expect that no more than a handful of Tories will vote against the government or abstain.

Leading rebels conceded that probably no more than a dozen would fail to support the government. However, they maintained there was "significant" backbench opposition to the bill and that a determined effort to secure more concessions would be made during its committee stages.

Mr Heseltine had hardly begun when Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, interrupted to argue that, in addition to the three different valuation bands for England, Scotland and Wales, there should be a fourth regional band for London and the southeast.

Mr Heseltine said that that point had been addressed by adding an extra band, band H, for properties worth over £320,000, and by ensuring that the highest tax bills would be no more than three times the lowest.

John Marshall, MP for Hendon South, intervened to say that only 1 per cent of the houses in Barnet would be in the lowest band, compared with 56 per cent in the northwest. Dame Elaine

Kellett-Bowman, Tory MP for Lancaster, argued that because a person lived in a big house did not mean they were well off.

Before Mr Heseltine could return to his speech he was interrupted by another Tory, Dr Michael Clark, from Rochford in Essex. He pointed out that teachers, civil servants, police officers, nurses and others got the same salary regardless of where they lived and those who lived in the southeast had less disposal income. They paid higher mortgage charges, so why should they be penalised twice by having to pay a council tax based on the high price of their houses?

Mr Heseltine said that extra money from the Treasury announced in the Budget would mean a lower overall contribution from the local citizen.

But none of Mr Heseltine's attempts to justify the new system was sufficient to persuade Ralph Howell, the MP for Norfolk North, that the poll tax had been cut by a 2.5 per cent rise in value-added tax. "Why on earth are we going through all this pain and problems that this wretched tax will engender? Why not solve the whole problem by a further 2.5 VAT and knock it on the head?"

Mr Heseltine replied that that would mean Whitehall having to deal with every minute detail of local authority spending. All equivalent societies had a property-based local tax. He accused the Labour party, many of whose MPs also sought to interrupt him, of seeking to delay the passage of the bill to keep the poll tax in place. But the government was committed to getting rid of it and nothing Labour could do would deter it.

Bryan Gould, Opposition environment spokesman, said that the new tax combined the problems of poll tax with those of a totally untied property tax. "It is poll tax crossed with capital value tax, roof tax crossed with head tax, a cross-bred monster that gives us the worst of all worlds."



Nothing so lovely: Baroness Trumpington carrying the first oak to be planted at Foremark Park Farm, part of the new national forest in Derbyshire

Tax shake-up 'will follow charter'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BIG changes in the tax system are likely to follow the introduction of the citizen's charter, according to the head of one of the most influential free-market think tanks.

By spotlighting the link between cash limits and service standards in the public sector, the charter will intensify pressures for greater information about how taxes

are spent. The result is likely to be earmarked taxes in sensitive areas such as health and education, Graham Mather, general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, will say in a speech tomorrow.

Another charter spin-off could be detailed annual reports to individual taxpayers giving a breakdown of how the government spent their money. Mr Mather pioneered many of the ideas later taken up by John Major in his most important and distinctive contribution to the domestic political agenda. The institute's chief will predict that the charter's attempt to use free-market disciplines to raise standards in the public services will add a dimension to the debate about levels of finance.

Under "government by contract", the missing piece in the jigsaw will be the mechanism by which voters decide to spend more of their money on, say, roads or health care and less elsewhere. It will no longer be possible for politicians to hide the costs of services from those who use and pay for them, Mr Mather will tell the Association of First Division Civil Servants in London.

Once the charter is in place, the next logical step will be to link choices and costs of particular patterns of service provision through earmarked taxes. Mr Mather will point out that at present the few remaining earmarked taxes are also used to subsidise general government expenditure. Of the £231 per person received in road taxes, for example, only £102 is spent on roads. Under the proposed new system of earmarked taxes, such cross subsidies would end. Services would all be funded from separate, clearly defined taxes.

Where earmarked taxes prove impractical, Whitehall would have to follow the example of local authorities and supply taxpayers with spending breakdowns.

PROPOSALS to scrap unemployment benefit by paying £100 a week to people on the dole to carry out work on environmental and social projects were unveiled yesterday by a right-wing think tank.

The scheme would guarantee everyone who wanted employment an opportunity to work but would give no support to able persons who refused to contribute to society. Initially, the scheme would be compulsory only for the under-twenties, though its author, Ralph Howell, Conservative MP for Norfolk North, envisages it expanding

Hunt begins for clues to a Tory EC revolt

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

Labour stance reversed

WHILE there were 39 Tories who voted against the party line in 1971 to oppose British entry into the common market, there were many more Labour rebels. A total of 69 Labour MPs defied the whip, of whom five remain in the Commons as Labour members: Roy Hattersley, John Smith, Denis Howell, Andrew Faulds and Tam Dalyell. But they rebelled so in order to vote in favour of British entry.

Labour was then an anti-EC party and the number of Labour MPs then voting against entry was 198. Of that number, 27 remain in the Commons as Labour MPs. Labour insists that it is now a more pro-European party than the Conservatives, but that is not altogether borne out by the facts. There were 17 Labour abstentions in the EMS entry debate last October to match the ten Tories who voted against and a number more who abstained.

recent votes that do offer vital clues. It was in April 1986, well back in Mrs Thatcher's time as Tory leader, that the Commons was asked to vote to ratify the Single European Act which set Europe off on the road to Maastricht by increasing the extent of majority voting. Again, eight of the ten who then voted against the second reading of the European Communities Amendment bill remain in the Commons. They are: Jonathan Aitken, Michael Brown, Nicholas Budgen, Derek Conway, Neil Hamilton, Roger Moore, Sir Teddy Taylor and Bill Walker.

Another key vote in a series of identifying hardline Euro-sceptics was that on October 23, 1985, when 16 Conservatives defied the whip to vote against legislation increasing Britain's contribution

to the EC budget. Thirteen remain: Jonathan Aitken, Sir Richard Body, Michael Brown, Nicholas Budgen, John Biffen, Terry Dicks, Den Dover, Eric Forth, Neil Hamilton, Tony Marlow, Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor and John Townend.

Much more recently, when Britain took the next step towards Europe by entering the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system last October, a motion was tabled in the Commons congratulating the government on the move and "believing it would strengthen the framework for a sustainable improvement in economic performance". Ten Tories voted with the Opposition against such an idea: John Biffen, Sir Richard Body, John Brown, Nicholas Budgen, Terry Dicks, Tim Jamman, David Mudd, Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor and Nicholas Winterston.

Those four votes between them provide a total of 25 individuals who have shown their willingness to vote against the government on the EC. If that field is to be extended, then the members of the backbench European Reform Group of known Euro-sceptics is the most likely recruiting ground. The 33 known members of that include Messrs Aitken, Biffen, Brown, Budgen, Carless, Dover, Fry, Hamilton, Jamman, Jessel, Marlow, Mudd, Shepherd, Townend, Walker, Winterston and Sir Teddy Taylor from the previous lists, with 15 more: Vivian Bendall, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Michael Cartiss, William Cash, Tony Favell (who quit as Mr Major's PPS to pursue his opposition to federalism), Christopher Gill, David Gilroy Bevan, Teresa Gorman, Gerald Howard, Edward Leigh, David Porter, Graham Riddick, John Watts, Sir Wiggan and Ann Winterston.

That lifts the total of potential rebels to 40. And if Neil Hamilton and Edward Leigh, as current ministers, stay loyal, two former cabinet ministers, Norman Tebbit and Nicholas Ridley, surely have to be added to the list of potential rebels to replace them. But, with quality counting as well as quantity in assessing the political impact of any rebellion, the big question for the Tories is whether Mrs Thatcher, who signed up to the Single European Act and to the ERM, should be pencilled in there too.

Ministers say that the government can ride the political consequences of anything up to 20 rebels. But if she is among them, all bets are off.



Winterston: gives support to Euro-sceptics

Charles Powell, page 14
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Reform would enhance role of backbenchers, committee told

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER Conservative minister for the civil service, in a parting shot before retiring from the Commons, has put forward proposals for changing the way legislation is prepared and debated.

Sir Richard Luce suggests that public and expert opinion should be canvassed before legislation is introduced. He hopes that his ideas will give backbench MPs a better chance to influence the drafting of government legislation and reduce the sitting hours of the Commons.

In his paper to the Commons enquiry on the working of the House, Sir Richard calls for every bill to be put through a preliminary select committee

of MPs where evidence is taken from interested organisations and the public.

He said: "I am convinced, after 21 years in Parliament, that changes are necessary in the hours of business and the method of handling business. Every government swamps Parliament with too much legislation and then debates it in a manner which is least likely to produce good and sensible legislation. Sitting an average of two nights a week after midnight is totally counterproductive."

In addition to the preliminary select committees, Sir

Richard proposes that the Commons should rise at 10pm except in emergencies; that most EC orders and minor legislation should be dealt with by committees; and wider acceptance of the guillotine to limit time spent debating detailed changes to bills.

In his submission to Sir Michael Jopling, the committee chairman, Sir Richard predicted that, if his reforms were brought in, governments would be restrained in the amount of legislation they introduced; legislation would be better scrutinised and individual MPs would play a more constructive role while accepting some restrictions in debate.

Pay jobless for social projects, says MP

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to scrap unemployment benefit by paying £100 a week to people on the dole to carry out work on environmental and social projects were unveiled yesterday by a right-wing think tank.

The scheme would guarantee everyone who wanted employment an opportunity to work but would give no support to able persons who refused to contribute to society. Initially, the scheme would be compulsory only for the under-twenties, though its author, Ralph Howell, Conservative MP for Norfolk North, envisages it expanding

within a generation to cover all those people out of work.

Mr Howell said that his scheme, outlined in a document entitled *Why Not Work?* published by the Adam Smith Institute, would cost less than the £20 billion paid in benefits annually to people of working age. The estimated £15 billion cost of his scheme suggests a sharp reduction in the amount of housing, community charge and other benefits paid to people out of work. "If everybody had a potential of earn-

ing £100 a week, that would eliminate quite a lot of other benefits that the state now pays out," he told a press conference at Westminster.

Under his proposals, unemployed people would be paid £100 a week tax free to carry out jobs beneficial to the community. Mr Howell said that people could work on projects such as road and footpath repairs and tree planting as well as running lunch clubs for the elderly and helping physically handicapped people.

He said that teams of people bags could clear litter from the streets while others could plant trees. Mr Howell denied that his proposals were a form of cheap labour.

"The fear of unemployment would be removed because everyone who wished to work would have access to a genuine job. The incentive to work would be re-established," he said.

Chris Poole, director of the Low Pay Unit, said the £100 a week tax-free payment was too low and added: "It threatens to turn the unemployed into a conscript army of cheap labour."

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Dutch produce more Euro shocks for Britain in latest draft



Hurd: will argue against unified foreign policy

As EC foreign ministers gather today to pave the way for the Maastricht summit, George Brock examines the latest draft treaty on political union

WITH less than a month to go before the Maastricht European Community summit, the government is faced with a draft treaty on political union which overrules its objections on joint foreign policy, extensions of community power and the "federal goal".

The latest version of the treaty, which emerged from the Dutch government yesterday, contains new sections on joint EC social and foreign policies which will be particularly unwelcome to the government.

New text suggests that some law-making could be done by trade unions, employers' organisations and majority votes by EC governments. Both changes will be

opposed by Britain, diplomatic sources said last night.

After ten months of debate, the latest draft proposes the greatest expansion of EC powers in the community's 35-year history, most of which is unwanted by the government. John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, have been trying to persuade their European counterparts that a deal can be done on both political and monetary union at Maastricht if British reservations can be met on a few sensitive topics. But the prime minister appears to have made little progress at his weekend meeting in Bonn with Helmut Kohl, the German

THE ROAD TO MAASTRICHT: WHERE THE 12 STAND

	UK	France	Germany	Denmark	Belgium	Greece	Italy	Spain	Portugal	Ireland	Netherlands	Luxembourg
Powers for European Parliament	against	+	for	against	for	for	for	for	for	against	for	for
New EC powers social affairs	against	for	for	against	for	for	for	for	for	against	for	for
Majority votes for foreign policy	against	for	for	against	for	for	for	for	for	against	for	for
Defence: Nato or EC	Nato	EC	+	Nato	EC	EC	Nato	EC	Nato	neutral	Nato	EC
EC immigrants visa	against	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for

chancellor, who is the single most influential power-broker in the community.

Mr Hurd will argue strongly against the latest proposals for integrating foreign policy when he joins EC foreign ministers for a two-day debate on the new treaty draft at the Dutch seaside town of Noordwijk today and tomorrow. The new draft proposes a joint EC foreign policy which would try to bind states more tightly to an agreed line. EC summits would designate specific sub-

jects, anything from co-operation on weapons design to "transatlantic relations", as fit for joint action. The draft then proposes that detailed arrangements for carrying out these policies should be decided by qualified majority vote.

Nine of the 12 EC countries support this approach to strengthening the community's foreign policies, which have been criticised in both the Gulf war and the disintegration of Yugoslavia. Mr Hurd will argue that the

proposed formulas in the treaty are too vague to be workable.

Another proposed clause would bind Britain and France to follow agreed EC lines in the United Nations Security Council. At the request of a majority of EC governments, led by Germany, the Dutch government has begun the process of bringing immigration into EC decision-making. Much proposed co-operation between police forces and judicial systems is planned under a

system of inter-government co-operation, but the new document puts several parts of national immigration policy under the traditional EC institutions, the European Commission and the European Court.

The treaty clearly foresees that all immigration policy would eventually come within EC powers, but the new draft suggests EC-wide rules for short-term visitors and visas. The text also creates or extends EC powers in education, research and dev-

elopment, the environment, energy, "trans-European networks" for telecommunications, energy and transport, tourism, consumer protection, "civil protection", culture and industry.

Britain would happily see many of these dropped, although the EC already takes action in many of these fields under a general enabling clause in the present treaty. The sections inaugurating EC industry and energy policy are especially unattractive to the government because their loose phrasing leaves room for subsidy, trade protection and distortion of markets.

The treaty proposes large increases in the delay and effective veto power of the European parliament, which may well provoke objections from not only Britain but other countries. The cumbersome procedure suggested would be used wherever ministerial councils had made decisions by majority vote.

Kohl plots tactics for Maastricht

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMAN officials from the chancellery, foreign and finance ministries met yesterday to try to narrow differences between Germany, Britain and France over European political and monetary union in the four weeks before the Maastricht summit.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, who on Sunday held talks with John Major, is to meet President Mitterrand of France in Bonn on Thursday and Friday. But he is being so secretive about his negotiating strategy that he is not even disclosing his tactics to Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his foreign minister. Herr Kohl intends to bring all the pressure he can to ensure that the treaties are signed, which will bring closer his dream of a United States of Europe.

Mr Major's domestic political difficulties and the looming British general election are seen in Bonn as useful levers for bringing Britain into line. The prime minister has made no secret of the fact that he would like to present success at Maastricht as part of his election campaign. As leader of a kind of political party to the Conservatives, Herr Kohl is prepared to help him. But German officials are

increasingly convinced that European integration will accelerate after Maastricht, whatever wins the next British election.

If Mr Major vetoes an agreement and wins the election, it is expected here that he will feel much freer to negotiate the kind of treaty Bonn wants. If he vetoes an agreement and loses, an incoming Labour government is expected to be more pliable and ready to prove its European credentials by agreeing even more readily.

Although there was no agreement in substance between the chancellor and Mr Major during their "positive" and "friendly" talks here on Sunday, Herr Kohl was convinced that, for domestic reasons, the prime minister was now keen for Maastricht to be a success. Although differences remain with the British position, there is a growing feeling that Mitterrand could now prove more intransigent than Mr Major in the run-up to the summit.

He is smarting after being out-manoeuvred in Rome at the Nato summit last week. He flew home feeling isolated and abandoned by Herr Kohl, with whom he had agreed only last month to create a European army, under the Western European Union, closely bound to the community. Forced in Rome to accept the primacy of Nato in organising the defence of Europe, the French president is expected to press hard during his two days in Bonn for Maastricht to define clear links between the community and the union and to agree a commitment to coordinate foreign and defence policy.

Herr Kohl has for some time claimed that the Franco-German relationship is the motor of European integration. He sees it as his responsibility now to pacify Mitterrand so that France can agree to a treaty which falls short of Paris's original pan-European expectations. The chancellor's tactic with both the president and Mr Major, who he will see again on November 27, is to argue that the Maastricht summit will alter nothing overnight, that all changes will be gradual and that details need not be negotiated now.

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Political salute: Jörg Haider, leader of the far-right Freedom Party, celebrating in Vienna yesterday after winning 22.6 per cent of the vote in municipal elections to become the second strongest party in the city. The tone of his campaign against foreigners has worried his opponents

Pankin doubts spread

From MARY DEJESKY IN MOSCOW

RUMOURS are circulating in Moscow that Eduard Shevardnadze may soon return to his previous job as Soviet foreign minister, replacing Boris Pankin.

Mr Pankin, who was appointed after the August coup, has come under increasing criticism from foreign ministry staff, who accuse him of insufficient resolution in representing the interests of the country and the ministry. Last week he accepted that his ministry would suffer staff cuts of about 30 per cent as the republics played a greater part in foreign policy and reduced their financial contributions.

As ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Mr Pankin was one of the few Soviet diplomats to condemn the coup from the outset, and was rewarded with the post of foreign minister. However, some said he was not up to the job, and before his appointment was confirmed more than 1,000 foreign ministry staff reportedly signed a petition demanding the return of Mr Shevardnadze.

Freedom party gets glimpse of power

Austrian far-right sweeps ahead

Anne McElvoy reports on the wave of support in Vienna for a politician who wants to ban all foreign workers

THE cosy and often corrupt consensus of post-war Austrian politics has ended with the ultra-right Freedom party (FPÖ) overtaking the conservative Volkspartei (ÖVP) as the second largest party in Vienna, taking nearly a quarter of the votes.

The Freedom party, led by an engaging demagogue, Jörg Haider, had campaigned for Sunday's election almost exclusively on the issue of foreigners in Austria, proposing an absolute stop to immigration. It gained a five point lead over the conservative ÖVP, which traditionally shares power with the social democrats nationwide. The social democrats (SPÖ) also dropped 10 per cent on their 1987 result.

The Viennese, whose equanimity verges on torpor, are at once perturbed and attracted by this cuckoo in the nest. Herr Haider's political base is Carinthia, Austria's deep south, where he built his career on the traditional extreme right vote.

This time, he gave his campaigning a more urbane tone but made sure that a basic anti-foreigner message got through, particularly to working class voters fearing

that a flood of cheap labour from the east will endanger their jobs and exacerbate the city's acute housing problem. Voters across the political spectrum were anxious to protest against the humdrum and often ineffectual policies which the decades of inbreeding between the social democrats and the conservatives has produced and which has rendered the government incapable of reacting to changed circumstances in the region.

But the extent of Herr Haider's success in the capital city where he has almost tripled his share of the vote since 1987 is beginning to concern many in Austria who are wondering exactly where his rapid rise will end. He has already said that he would like to be chancellor of the country one day and the Vienna result brings his until recently spurned party out of the Biergarten and into the drawing room. It also makes it an unavoidable coalition partner in future governments.

Hans Mayr, the SPÖ chairman, said that Herr Haider's gain had "brought into politics a spectre which we will all have to deal with for some time. The hatred which has been sown in this election will be reaped in the future." But both his party and the conservatives know that the success of the Freedom party is a product of a moribund political consensus, established to give Austria stability in the early post-war years but which has long outlived its usefulness.

Anneliese Rohrer, political editor of *Die Presse* said: "Haider could never have got this result if the main parties had been so unsatisfactory to the voters. I would draw a cautious comparison with the Weimar republic, where political paralysis allowed the extremists through in a time of upheaval and uncertainty."

Vienna is the city most directly affected by the changes in Eastern Europe and the potential mass flight of refugees in Yugoslavia. Herr Haider has concentrated his

campaigning in working class traditionally socialist areas bringing rousing rhetoric and promises of firm action "against the swamping of our country" to people anxious for reassurance.

Much of his own wealth comes from a family of SA men, his mother a Hitler Youth leader. Once in a while, when he considers it tactically advantageous to woo the older voters with a dose of Third Reich nostalgia he allows himself carefully timed "slips", announcing in the summer that Hitler had at least brought Austria an effective job-creation policy.

Other trappings of the Freedom party bring back memories never far below the surface in Austria. Herr Haider always travels with a visible guard of heavies and does delays his entries on to the platform until the crowd is in the required frenzy of expectation. His constituency is the nostalgic elderly Nazis of the provinces, but young people of all classes in the cities are excited by the challenge he presents to political shibboleths.

Leading article, page 15

Mujahedin meet Russian leaders

Moscow — Afghan guerrilla leaders yesterday held the first direct negotiations with the Russian leadership in 13 years of hostility.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, the delegation leader, spent more than two hours with Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president, an Afghan war veteran and a former captive of the rebels. Mr Rabbani described their talks as constructive and encouraging.

The delegation includes representatives of four groups fighting to overthrow President Najibullah's government. Three radical Islamic parties refused to take part. The mujahedin are due to see Boris Pankin, the Soviet foreign minister, today. (Reuters)

Olympic return

Lansanne — The International Olympic Committee has invited Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania to next year's games after committee members formally voted in a postal ballot to readmit the three Baltic states to the Olympic fold. Some of the 94 members did not vote but none opposed their re-entry. (Reuters)

UN shortlist

New York — Boutros Boutros Ghali, Egypt's deputy prime minister, emerged as the front-runner yesterday to succeed Javier Perez de Cuellar as United Nations Secretary-General. But diplomats said Britain and the United States may veto his candidacy. Dr Boutros Ghali won the support of 11 countries.

Church sit-in

Aachen — Protesting German coalminers took over part of Aachen cathedral as Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, met coal industry leaders in Bonn to discuss plans to reduce output from their heavily subsidised industry. A union leader said: "We're looking to the church for protection." (Reuters)

Front page story

Moscow — *Pravda*, the former Communist party newspaper, is now carrying advertisements daily across the top of its front page, describing the move as financially necessary but "professionally painful". Yesterday's banner read: "Stocks in the all-Russian Exchange Bank guarantee your success."

Neo-nazis jailed

Berlin — Five neo-nazis were jailed for up to 15 months for attacking a convalescent home for Soviet children contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The trial in Zittau was the first against neo-nazis in east Germany, where foreigners and refugees have been attacked almost daily this year. (Reuters)

Bridge protest

Caen — British and French war veterans marched to protest at plans to dismantle and replace the first bridge liberated during the 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy. The Pegasus bridge at Benouville, a suburb of Caen, was captured by British paratroopers hours before the main allied landings. (AP)

Pretoria blocked

Rome — South Africa withdrew its application to rejoin the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation after strong opposition from the Organisation of African Unity, which urged its members in FAO to block the application, saying Pretoria had not moved far enough in dismantling its apartheid policies. (Reuters)

Scent of scandal hangs over former communists

Communist parties in Eastern Europe may have organised secret funding links to protect themselves, Roger Boyes reports from Warsaw

POLAND'S well-tailored former communists had the scent of scandal hanging over them yesterday as they sought to explain away the large funds that were shifted to Warsaw from Moscow, and back again.

According to *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a plan to set up a "central commercial co-ordination agency" was discussed at a secret communist party session in Warsaw last March. The idea appears to have been to restore funding links between the different East European communist parties, at bay since the 1989 revolutions. The newspaper said Leszek Miller, a former member of the Polish politburo, was involved in the plan, but yesterday he vehemently denied the charge. And Alexander Kwasniew-

ski, one of the leaders of the Social Democrats, as the former communists now call themselves, denied that Soviet cash had been used to finance the relaunching of his party, or the party newspaper.

None the less, the mystery remains and there is a real suspicion that communist parties have been moving — in a highly organised way and with secret funding — to protect themselves in the new democratic climate. Among the discrepancies revealed by three days of investigation:

□ Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the former party leader, admitted that he had indeed received a loan of £700,000 and a substantial sum in Polish currency from the Soviet Communist party. He says that it was repaid in

full, despite claims that the Polish party want to reschedule the debt. Yet there are Soviet receipts for only £350,000.

□ Marian Orzechowski and Marek Krol, two members of the Polish politburo during the period in question, 1989-90, say they were unaware of the Soviet credit and it was not discussed by the party's ruling body.

□ The Polish central bank was not informed of the transaction and the party apparently broke a number of banking laws. Money, then, has been flowing at

least between Warsaw and Moscow, but probably also to other East European parties.

The transfers have been administered, with maximum secrecy, by small groups in the party hierarchies of Moscow and Warsaw. At the centre of the web in the Soviet Union were the central committee international department and the KGB units with responsibility for maintaining the links with communist parties in the East and West.

Politicians from these departments also seem to be

connected with the unsuccessful August coup. This led Mr Miller yesterday to conclude: "The current financial allegations against us have to be seen as part of Soviet political infighting and an attempt to discredit [President] Gorbachev."

Certainly, one of the letters about Polish finances reprinted last week by the Russian weekly *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* is to Mr Gorbachev from Genadi Yanayev, later to be one of the leaders of the coup. But investigators do not rule out a network of underground finances.

The revelations come at a sensitive political time for Poland. Bronislaw Geremek, the prime minister-designate and leader of the Democratic Union, is trying to form a coalition government, but with little success.



Rakowski admitted that he received a loan

Violence spreads in South Africa

Gold mine clashes leave 69 blacks dead

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

AT LEAST 69 miners were killed and 174 injured in savage fighting between Sotho and Xhosa-speaking employees at the President Steyn gold mine in Orange Free State.

The spark was a political demonstration, which led to a bloody clash and a series of revenge killings. Reports tell of close-quarter combat with knives, pangas and clubs, but there is no evidence of firearms having been used.

The conflict is particularly alarming for the authorities since it marks a departure from the desultory war in black townships between Xhosa-speaking tribes, who broadly support the African National Congress, and Zulus loyal to the Inkatha Freedom party. For the first time, migrant workers from Lesotho have been drawn into the carnage and nobody seems sure how it happened, or how to deal with it.

The trouble began on November 3, when Xhosa-speaking miners supporting a two-day general strike clashed with Basothos from Lesotho about to begin a night shift. Fifteen people were killed. In spite of intensified security measures, dozens of Basothos were slaughtered in their beds last Friday night, and renewed fighting in the workers' hostels raised the death toll at the weekend. According to the Anglo American Corporation,

which owns the mine, 25 people died on Friday and 29 on Sunday. Most were apparently killed in their beds with home-made weapons, including sharpened metal piping.

A police spokesman said political issues apparent in the initial fighting had been lost in the mayhem of reprisals. Referring to the worst incident on Friday, he said: "It looks like a carefully planned revenge attack. The victims appear to have been completely overpowered."

Hundreds of terrified miners have fled from their hostels to a nearby black township. Two mine shafts, employing more than 10,000 men and producing about £500,000-worth of gold daily, have ceased production.

Jan Rossouw, the regional general manager, said yesterday that security had been increased after the first clash, and that many weapons, including five hand-guns, had been confiscated from the hostels. Security men and policemen had been on duty on Friday night. He said intensive negotiations were taking place to defuse tension, adding: "We cannot really find any reason why this particular mine should be the focus of conflict."

Anglo American has asked a standing commission on violence and intimidation to investigate, and the National

Union of Mineworkers intends to conduct a separate inquiry. The union said yesterday that provocateurs from outside the mine may have been responsible for the violence, but company officials said only two victims were not employees.

● Harare: President Mugabe has reluctantly authorised Zimbabwe's grain marketing board to sign a contract with South Africa to buy 100,000 tonnes of maize to ward off the danger of food shortages (Jan Raath writes).

The move was the final vindication of warnings from farmers that the maintenance of cheap food policies would result in food shortages because of the low returns on growing maize, the national staple. Farmers have reportedly delivered just under 600,000 tonnes this season, compared with 2.1 million tonnes in 1981, and reserves will have been exhausted by the end of January unless the government introduces rationing.

Caste prostitutes join the family business

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BANDRA SINDRI, RAJASTHAN



Waiting game: girls who followed their mothers in the village's traditional employment get ready for clients

THE prostitutes' village of Bandra Sindri is a few hundred yards off the Grand Trunk Road, convenient for lorry drivers. The girls who work here are following a caste tradition that passes from mothers to daughters. "It's a family business," says Sheela Rajput, aged 35, who has a daughter who will also become a prostitute.

They belong to the Rajput caste, which once supplied acrobats, magicians and mistresses for the amusement of the Rajput lords. The demise of the princely states after independence in 1947 left these families without employers, so they "went freelance," as Sheela Rajput put it.

At night drunken lorry drivers pour into this village and many others similar to it alongside the Grand Trunk Road, India's premier highway. Girls are initiated at around the age of 17, when they receive a new nose stud. In Bandra Sindri, meaning "monkey rope", the ceremony is centred on a local deity, Jhujar, and is an occasion of wild celebration.

In the brick hut that serves as the village police station two constables were playing cards. There was no

question of stopping the trade, they said, which is a legitimate caste function. Indeed, the girls attend the police station frequently to pray at a little shrine inside. Constable Rajendra Prasad said the Rajput kings used to look after the prostitutes and their families and took care of illegitimate children. Now the girls had to fend for themselves.

Gulab Chand, a village elder, insisted that girls did not have to go into the trade if they could find a husband. Some fell in love with a client and married. He added with pride that royal blood flowed through their veins because of their long associations with the Rajput kings. "We are half Rajput," he declared. Another caste in the area, the Kernuts, "are lower than us because they do not come from the Rajputs." He said he saw nothing wrong in putting girls into prostitution. It was their tradition.

As he talked, girls wearing bright saris, gaudy lipstick and long plastic earrings sauntered by. Constable Prasad, who seems to be an authority on local Rajput history, had turned up for a cup of tea. "In some cases

the girls worked at temples and received priestly patronage," he said. "But the priests lost much of their authority after the demise of the princely states and they could no longer afford mistresses. Those girls also had to go on the open market."

Anita Rajput, aged 22, said she entered the trade because her mother told her to. She was sitting on her bed in a grubby concrete hut, waiting for nightfall when business begins. "This is our traditional way of life. No single man could keep me in clothes and lipstick. This way I have more money." Her friend, Pushpa Rajput, aged 25, agrees. She said she had lots of clients from an army camp near by. She has a daughter and son, fathers unknown, and said the girl would become a prostitute "if she wants to".

Not all Rajput girls in the village are prostitutes, but only a small minority manage to escape the trade. Mothers prefer to put their girls to work because they bring home money and, equally important, avoid the burden of a marriage dowry. It also allows them to give up prostitution and become their daughters' madams.

Death linked to corruption probe

FROM REUTER IN KISUMU

A BRITISH detective told an enquiry yesterday that he believed Robert Ouko, the late Kenyan foreign minister, was murdered 20 months ago because he was leading an enquiry into high-level corruption.

John Troon, who led a British police team called in to investigate the popular minister's death, also told the judicial enquiry in Kisumu. Mr Ouko's home town 250 miles northwest of Nairobi, that he was unable to complete his report because requests to interview senior government officials were turned down. "I was told that the matter of the investigations would be taken from there on by Kenyan authorities," he said.

He added: "I had to establish what was behind the

corruption and I requested to continue this enquiry. I was told, 'No.' Ouko's mutilated and charred body was discovered in a field in western Kenya in February last year. He had been shot in the head at close range with a single bullet. President Moi called in British detectives after a preliminary Kenyan report hinting at suicide prompted accusations of a cover-up. The report triggered nationwide riots in which several people were killed.

Mr Troon's report was not made public, in spite of earlier pledges by Mr Moi that it would be. Mr Troon said last week that he had tried several times to interview Nicholas Biwott, the former energy minister and one of Mr Moi's closest political allies, who was transferred to industry in a surprise cabinet reshuffle two weeks ago.

The enquiry has heard allegations that Mr Biwott, George Saitoti, the vice-president, and Elijah Mwangale, the agricultural minister, demanded kickbacks from BAK, the Swiss-based agricultural and industrial group, over a multi-million pound contract to rehabilitate a molasses plant. Mr Troon, reading his report in public, told a hushed courtroom: "Allegations of corruption, particularly against the BAK group of companies, are important." The government has yet to comment on the allegations.



Ouko: shot once in the head at close range

Court sees video of nazi mass grave

FROM REUTER IN ADELAIDE

VIDEO tape of a mass grave containing hundreds of bodies was shown yesterday at Australia's first Nazi war crimes hearing. Detective Sergeant David Hughes, the first witness, described how skeletons and skulls were uncovered by Australian and Soviet investigators in the Ukraine.

Ivan Polyukhovich, a Polish-speaking Ukrainian, aged 75, faces charges of murdering 24 Jews and being involved in the killing of up to 850 others after marching them from a Jewish ghetto in his home village of Serniki. He listened intently in court as an interpreter translated the proceedings into Polish.

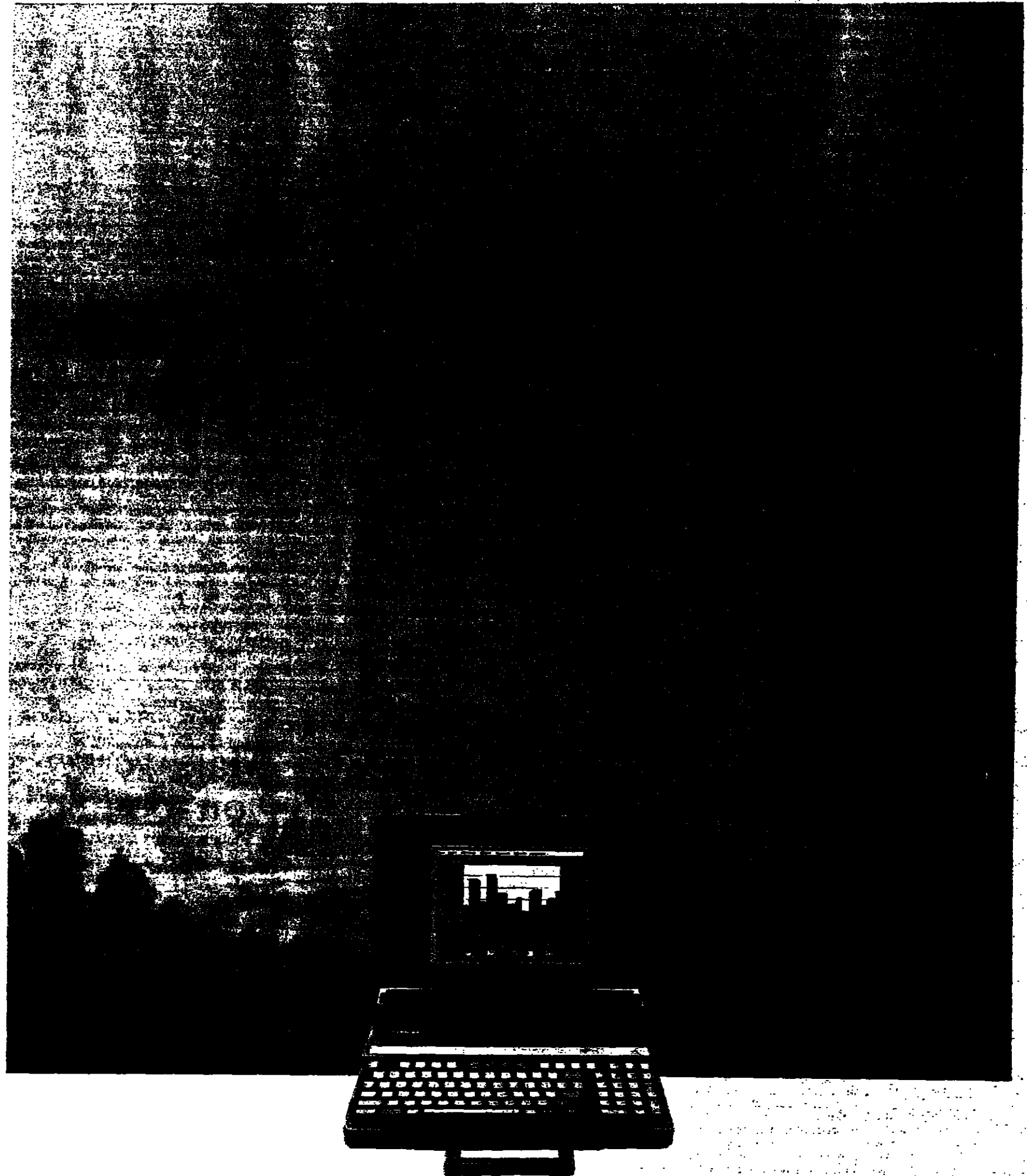
Sergeant Hughes described his part in the exhumation of the human remains nearly 50 years after the German war-time occupation of the Ukraine. He said he was part of a team of Australian academics and Soviet experts in the Ukraine last year. They found a mass grave 40 yards long, three yards wide and three yards deep near Serniki.

Two bulldozers were used to unearth the remains, which were piled in layers at one end of the grave. Some of the skulls had small fractures while others had been caved in. They were all examined

and reinterred. Mr Polyukhovich, now an Australian citizen, first appeared in court in January last year but his case was delayed after he was shot in the stomach on the eve of court proceedings six months later.

In a protracted constitutional challenge, he tried to have Australia's 1989 war crimes laws declared invalid. But his application was rejected by the Australian High Court in August. The prosecution alleges that Mr Polyukhovich helped to carry out the killings after he became a member of a police force set up in Serniki by the nazis. Outside the court, which will determine whether Mr Polyukhovich should stand trial, a small band of protesters showed their opposition to the trial. Among them was Sir Walter Crocker, aged 90, a former South Australian lieutenant-governor, who said that the trial was a waste of taxpayers' money.

He said the case involved no crimes against Australians and no crimes against Australia. "This and related trials are not driven by justice but by hatred and revenge," he said in a statement. The hearing will continue today.



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New mission set up after 16-year break

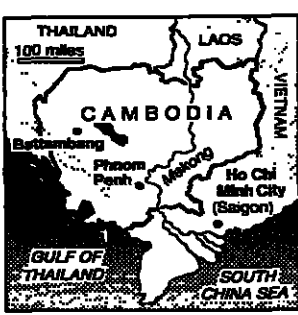
America renews its ties with Cambodia

By DAN BIER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PHNOM PENH AND JAMES PRINGLE IN SISOPHON

AFTER a 16-year absence, the United States yesterday restored its diplomatic presence in Cambodia to assist with the transition to democratic elections.

"This is an historic occasion," said Charles Twining, an Indo-China specialist who arrived to set up the new mission in Phnom Penh. Mr Twining will work with the United Nations and Cambodia's Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body of government and guerrilla leaders, as it guides the nation to UN-organised elections by 1993. The Vietnamese-installed government and the three rebel groups that opposed it signed a peace treaty on October 23.

America shut its old embassy in Phnom Penh in April 1975 as the communist Khmer Rouge closed in on the capital to defeat the American-backed Lon Nol government. One of the most enduring images of the defeat of American intervention in Indo-China was a news photograph of John Gunther Dean,



THE THEN US ambassador, walking to an evacuation helicopter with the American flag tucked under his arm.

Like Japan and Britain, which also have sent envoys to Cambodia in the past two days, America will recognise the supreme national council, not the Vietnamese-installed administration, as the country's ruler. In three days' time Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian head of state, is to return to Phnom Penh from more than a decade of exile to lead the council.

Mr Twining said the Paris peace agreement, which gives the UN extensive military and

administrative involvement in Cambodian affairs, "offers the most realistic way to bring peace to Cambodia". The accord would give the Cambodian people "the chance to choose their own government, and build safeguards against the return to the violence of the past".

He was referring to the nearly four years of totalitarian horror after the Khmer Rouge seized power in 1975, killing hundreds of thousands of people in purges, slave labour camps and execution chambers. The Khmer Rouge is the most powerful of three guerrilla groups that fought the Phnom Penh government after Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978 and drove the Khmer Rouge to the jungles along the Thai border.

Two of its leaders, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, are expected to return to Phnom Penh this month for supreme national council meetings. Phnom Penh residents say they still fear the Khmer Rouge, which evacuated the capital at gunpoint in 1975 to begin its radical agrarian revolution. Hor Nam Hong, the Cambodian foreign minister, said yesterday that Khmer Rouge leaders should be brought to trial on charges of genocide. "I do not trust them one bit," he said. "They have not changed."

The Khmer Rouge has promised to abide by the peace treaty, but Western analysts say that secret documents show the group has plotted a clandestine course to power in case it fails in elections.

On Sunday, 37 Australian soldiers in blue berets arrived as the first of the UN force that will try to prevent violations of the truce and other terms of the peace treaty.

In a shrewd political move, the Khmer Rouge is preparing a programme to resettle Cambodians returning to the country from Thailand. The guerrillas, through agents, are buying animals in the market in Sisophon, northwest Cambodia and building villages in order to encourage Cambodians to resettle in areas they control, local government officials say.

The oxen and buffaloes will be offered to Cambodians who choose to be repatriated from Thailand by the Khmer Rouge rather than through the United Nations. The villages are being built five miles south of the highway that leads to the Thai border from Sisophon. "It's a package deal," notes a foreign relief official in Phnom Penh familiar with Khmer Rouge activity. "They are offering returning Cambodians a house, land guaranteed clear of mines, an animal for the plough, and security — their kind of security. Most people remain afraid of the Khmer Rouge, but some may be tempted."

Under a forcible repatriation pact signed on October 29 between Britain and Vietnam, Hanoi has promised not to persecute or hurt returning Vietnamese, even if they left the country illegally. Many boat people, however, doubt the sincerity of Vietnam's pledge.

Up to 50,000 Vietnamese in Hong Kong's camps could eventually be sent back against their will. Only those who can prove that they fled for political reasons are granted refugee status for resettlement overseas.

The next repatriation flight is expected to be early next month. About 1.5 million Vietnamese have fled Vietnam since 1975.



Helping hand: a Cambodian boy assisting his father, crippled in the explosion of a Khmer Rouge mine, to steer his wheelchair in Phnom Penh yesterday

Typhoon threatens Luzon

By ABBY TAN IN MANILA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TYPHOON Seth, with winds up to 120 mph, is expected to hit the main island of Luzon in the Philippines today, only a week after extensive flooding killed at least 5,400 people in Leyte province.

A private radio station reported yesterday that ten people had been killed by tidal waves on the eastern coast of Samar, north of Leyte, as Seth approached. Philippines naval ships helping to find bodies washed out to sea by last week's floods have been advised to seek shelter.

President Aquino has promised to act against illegal loggers blamed by officials for the deforestation in Leyte which directly contributed to

the devastation caused by the floods. After visiting Ormoc, the worst-affected town, she said in a statement: "We will prosecute all of those identified as having cut the forests illegally."

Senators and congressmen demanded that strong action be taken to stop deforestation. The country was now reaping the consequences of forest depletion which began 40 years ago, they said.

Philippines forests are being cut down at the rate of 445,000 acres a year, according to official reports. Military officials and politicians have been accused of smuggling illegally cut logs.

Senator Ernesto Maceda said: "Unless illegal logging is stopped, our country will continue to witness this total devastation, with human and livestock corpses rotting in the streets once another strong typhoon hits our country."

Senator Aquilino Pimentel said that denuding the forests and watershed areas had robbed people of protection from natural calamities which the trees provided by absorbing heavy rainfall and stabilising hillside soil. The senator called for the picketing of companies and individuals known to be engaged in illegal logging. "The plunder of our natural resources will ultimately lead to a barren land," he added.

Bayous blues over rise of Duke

From PETER STOTHARD IN NEW ORLEANS

AS THE countdown begins to Saturday's contest to be governor of Louisiana, many professionals who live in the state (or were merely born here) are furiously denying that former Nazi and Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke is a species peculiar to the bayous.

The Louisiana establishment cannot deny Mr Duke his popularity but they can try to say that he might have been just as popular if he had made his career of cross-burning, black-baiting and anti-semitism somewhere else. In Washington, Cokie Roberts, a Louisiana broadcaster and daughter of two New Orleans politicians, is warning her audiences that Mr Duke's message of coded racism could sell in many other states apart from her own.

Normally, Louisianans love nothing better than to answer questions about their home-state politics with a rolling heavenward of their eyes and a few words about how bizarre everything is. Corrupt politics is as much part of their romantic past as blackened crayfish. This week, however, no one wants to talk about the unique spirit of the state. Pundits prefer to blame Mr Duke on the national economic recession and the national Republican use of racial appeals.

Even the White House seems to have been persuaded that Mr Duke is more than a local phenomenon. Republicans are being urged to spend money on the two-term Democrat governor, Edwin Edwards, as freely as if one of their own men were running, although his financial probity has been called into question. Presidential advisers argue that Dukeism could soon surface outside Louisiana.

By Saturday's closing date for postal ballots, a record 75,000 absentee votes had been received in the state capital, Baton Rouge. Most are expected to be for Mr Edwards, who exiled Louisianans, even those who loathe him, are relying on to stop the rot. No one should be surprised at the "stop Duke" campaign, even though President Bush himself might be better off next year with a Governor Duke tied up in administrative problems than with a "martyr Duke" challenging him for the Republican presidential nomination.

To blame a single state for David Duke has become almost as "politically incorrect" in polite society as racism or sexism. The new sin in Louisiana is "statism", international television crews who revive civil memories of Bonapartism and Huey Long, the pre-war populist governor, are increasingly unpopular. Louisiana has long wanted to profit from the best of its history and forget the worst — a fine ambition, if it succeeds. It is not succeeding today.

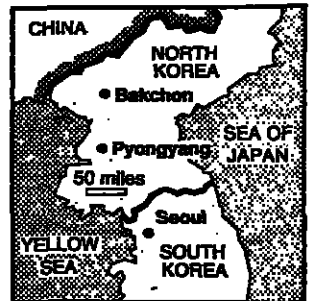
Arms race in Korea 'must be stopped'

Tokyo — James Baker, the American Secretary of State, yesterday urged the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union, to head off a nuclear arms race on the Korean peninsula.

"The very real threat of nuclear proliferation on the Korean peninsula is now the number one threat to security in northeast Asia," Mr Baker said in a speech to the Japan Institute for International Affairs. He also urged Japan to move beyond "checkbook diplomacy" to "assume wider global responsibilities".

Mr Baker also held private meetings with ministers in the Japanese government headed by Kiichi Miyazawa, the new prime minister.

A Japanese source said Mr Baker's ideas on trade, which had been the main topic of talks with Mr Miyazawa, were given a cool response. But there had been "a strong similarity of views on the Korean issue... It was very clear Japan wanted to work closely with the United States". (AP)



Governor elected

Port Moresby — The Papua New Guinea parliament yesterday elected Wiwa Korowi, an opposition National party MP, as governor-general to succeed Sir Serei Eri, who resigned early last month after provoking a constitutional emergency by refusing to sack a minister found guilty of corruption. (Reuters)

Trial enquiry

Brisbane — An enquiry has been launched into the perjury trial of Sir John Biele-Petersen, the former Queensland premier, after jurors publicly complained about the foreman. The 15-day trial was stopped last month. Luke Shaw, the foreman, has been named as a member of Sir John's National party. (Reuters)

Big drugs haul

Islamabad — Pakistani authorities near the Iranian border have arrested two men and seized 42 tonnes of hashish and heroin in one of the world's biggest drugs raids. Officials said the raid proved that the "Golden Crescent" remained an important supply source for international drug traffickers. (AFP)

Settlement plans

Jerusalem — Israel's housing ministry plans to build more than a third of new housing on occupied land next year, leaving members of parliament said. Of 15,000 units, 5,400 will be in the West Bank, Golan Heights and Gaza Strip. Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement and Haim Oron of Mapam said. (Reuters)

Reform session

Ulaan Bator — The People's Great Hural, Mongolia's parliament, has begun an extraordinary three-week session to approve changes in its constitution to guarantee last year's democratic reforms. The session will finally end more than 70 years of communist rule in the republic. (Reuters)

Bullion hunt

Port Moresby — Papua New Guinea is investigating the activities and visa status of an Australian diving syndicate trying to salvage gold from wartime Japanese wrecks. The ships were reported to be carrying up to 100 tonnes of bullion stolen from Singapore during the second world war. (Reuters)

Stamped out

Peking — The unauthorised buying and selling of postage stamps, by far the fastest growing "stock exchange" in China, has been made a criminal offence. Tens of thousands of investors had been using an improvised trading floor in Yueshan park, where dealers gathered in a grove of pine trees. (Reuters)

Bomb kills 17

Kinshasa — Seventeen people were killed when a bomb destroyed the Tadi-Zaire bar frequented by pro-democracy supporters on the outskirts of the Zairean capital. Witnesses blamed soldiers of President Mobutu's army for the explosion. Troops also looted the warehouse of a big Lebanese company, witnesses said. (AP)

Gulf talks split over Iran role

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A SUMMIT of eight nations, aimed at establishing a new security system for the Gulf, opened in Cairo yesterday amid disagreement over whether Iran should be given a role.

The meeting had been intended to amend the March Damascus declaration under which the Gulf states had agreed to finance Egypt and Syria in exchange for troops being based in the Gulf. As ministers representing Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Co-operation Council states led by Saudi Arabia arrived for the meeting, the government-owned Cairo daily, *Al-Ahram*, attacked comments by the ruler of Qatar: "It is no secret that Iran has unlimited greed for the Gulf area which is no less dangerous than the greed of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for Kuwait," the paper said, clearly inspired by the Cairo leadership. Qatar said recently that Iran could not be excluded from security arrangements in the region.

There is concern in Egypt about the warming of relations between Iran and several Gulf states in the aftermath of the Gulf war. *Al-Ahram* said Egypt could not accept that the other Arabs would allow Iran to participate, and then cry for help "when the wolf eats the lamb". Earlier attempts to establish a post-Gulf war security framework with a strong Arab complement foundered when the Gulf states showed a preference for protection by Western forces.

Peace process inflames Arab democracy debate

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO



Mubarak: action against opponents of conference

ONE immediate result of the Madrid peace conference has been to revive the fierce internal debate about the lack of true democracy in the Arab world, and secure Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's right-wing prime minister, some unexpected Arab allies.

Opposition papers in Egypt, the most populous Arab state, and the only one officially at peace with Israel, have reacted angrily to the action by the security forces against all opponents of the Middle East conference. Several hundred were arrested under draconian emergency laws in operation since the assassination of President Sadat in 1981.

Similar moves to stifle opponents of the peace process, a mix of Muslim fundamentalists, left-wingers and Arab nationalist groups plus professional associations and university students, have also taken place in Jordan. One protest rally in Amman was banned and another broken up by secret policemen.

"The recent measures adopted by some Arab regimes affirm the description already levelled at them by Shamir, that they are ruling by force, void of strong opposition parties," declared the Cairo opposition weekly *Al-Hakika*. "As compared with what has happened in the Arab world, in Israel people are allowed to voice views, to object, and to suffer no subsequent detentions or sequestration of counter opinions."

The weekly quoted several prominent Egyptian oppo-

sition figures questioning why Arab governments had chosen to ignore what is claimed as the opinion of the majority of their people who are alleged to be against holding the conference under its present terms. "The peace conference negotiations have started and no matter what one's opinion of them, it has to be understood that the Arab governments did not let their peoples represented in their parliaments air their own views."

Added the paper, an organ of the minority right-wing Liberal party in Cairo. Among those arrested in Egypt for opposing the conference were two former members of parliament and the editor of a religious weekly. At least one Palestinian opposed to the talks was deported to Libya. The strong support of President Mubarak's government for the Madrid process was reflected in the headline

in the semi-official evening paper *Al-Messa*: "The conference: dream comes true." Journalists, doctors and lawyers are among Egyptians who have protested against the conference, and the repression which it has generated all over Egypt where all opposing posters have been ripped off walls by security and riot squads.

Magdy Mehanna, a journalist writing in the main opposition daily *Al-Wafd*, argued that the anti-Madrid view that to attend was recognising the legality of Israel's occupation of Arab land, and conceding control of Jerusalem, was just as legitimate as the arguments in support of the Arabs taking their seats. "The opposition to the peace conference does not represent a crime, and to express it in writing or even peaceful demonstrations does not shake security or disturb peace, or aim at the destabilisation and overthrow of the state," Mr Mehanna said. "Why is it that the (Egyptian) regime is doing its best to present an ugly image before the world? Why should we be angry at the statements of... Shamir in which he criticised the absence of democracy in the Arab world, and called on the Arab states to respect their peoples before he met them in Madrid?"

As the peace process moves towards hard decisions, Western officials in Cairo predict that the parallel debate about the contrast between Arab and Israeli democracy will also gather momentum.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Male workers given lesson on looking and leering

While a couple of bored young men are out fishing, a bevy of scantily clad blondes suddenly parachute into their camp. "It's the Swedish bikini team," television viewers learn, but that is not all. To the joy of the fishermen, the girls are bearing packs of cold beer.

This commercial for Siro's Old Milwaukee is one of a venerable genre used by Budweiser, Miller and most other beer makers. But the days of such advertising may be numbered. Last Friday, women workers at Siro's began proceedings to demand an end to the bikini campaign, which, they said, constitutes sexual harassment. The case is part of the revolution over the workplace rapport between the "genders" as they are now called, since the Clarence Thomas hearings. A month after Anita Hill jolted the American psyche during those hearings, codes are being promulgated and employees are being called in to seminars to raise their consciousness about "hostile environments".

Under the new rules, men are being taught to differentiate between looking and leering and other matters of etiquette. Du Pont chemicals and other companies

have opened 24-hour harassment hotlines.

Now, a few timid males are suggesting that the issue may be getting out of hand. Braving the ire of the politically correct, *Fortune* magazine last week gingerly said it thought "the extent of the problem may be overblown". Helen Gurley Brown, editor of *Cosmopolitan*, has also brought down opprobrium on her head by arguing that "we should



lighten up and not make everything a federal offence."

But according to tales coming from Wall Street, women there are still in dire need of protection. They are still being subjected to "an amazing range of offensive and discriminatory practices". *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The newspaper found a big firm which celebrates birthdays with cakes in the shape of a phallus, and a woman investment banker who found that her boss

had promised her sexual favours to a customer in a forthcoming deal.

Far from the jungle of Wall Street, New York's attention has been focused of late on four young females at the other end of Manhattan who are awaiting the attentions of a divorced, overweight, elderly male called Timmy. Their residence is the Bronx zoo and Timmy is a 500lb gorilla who has arrived fresh from the federal court in Cleveland where he was the subject of America's first law suit over the marital status of a primate. Timmy, who has reached the relatively advanced age of 33, had been living for years with Katie, aged 35, in the Cleveland zoo without any offspring. In the interests of the endangered species, it was decided to send Timmy to the Big Apple to mate with the four younger females there.

But animal rights activists went to court charging that a rupture with Katie would break the couple's hearts. The zoo pointed out that gorillas are polygamous and the judge rejected the legal argument over "emotional distress". She sent Timmy packing to quarantine in the Bronx, where he is getting used to the feel of easily the roughest borough in the Naked City.

Unmatched pair play winning hand



Contrasting views of women: Richard Ziegler's *Girl with Striped Dress*, 1977 (left), and Richard Diebenkorn's *Seated figure with hat*, 1967, on show at Runkel-Hue-Williams and the Whitechapel respectively

The American artist Richard Diebenkorn is not yet well known in Britain, perhaps because he is a leading West Coast artist who has never really played the New York art-circus game. Artists in the old Soviet Union found it difficult to get to any foreign audience without going through Moscow; American artists appear to have similar trouble with New York.

Diebenkorn has, of course, shown elsewhere than in his native environment: he represented the United States in the 1978 Venice Biennale. But his unwillingness to leave the West Coast has worked against his having as large a reputation as others of his generation (he was born in 1922).

The present London show, filling all three spaces at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, begins in 1949, when Diebenkorn was living in San Francisco and teaching at the California School of Fine Arts. At that time he was painting what a bright young artist in America might be expected to paint: free-form abstractions, apparently based on disguised landscapes or still-lives.

As the Fifties progressed the landscape element became more overt; the forms grew at once more fluent and more defined. The most evident parallel among the more established Abstract Expressionists of the time is also the most unlikely: Arshile Gorky, with his well-developed system of private symbolism, often seems to be hovering over the very different art of Diebenkorn, sharing an exquisite feeling for colour and

John Russell Taylor on two London exhibitions, by a Californian veteran and a centenarian from Germany

texture and an ability to find or invent shapes which speak volumes without saying anything too specific.

After this, Diebenkorn turned to an all-purpose Post-Impressionist style, richly coloured and usually featuring female figures, sometimes set against a landscape. On at least one occasion here, *Woman in Profile* (1958), the woman is set against a landscape that vividly prefigures, in its stark linearity, the sort of painting he was to produce two decades later.

Before that happened, with his move from northern to southern California in 1966, he went through another significant phase, triggered by a cultural exchange that took him lecturing in the Soviet Union. The change had nothing to do with Russia, but everything to do with the Matisse he saw there. The last paintings of his directly figurative period, like *Seated Woman*, are almost uncomfortably close to his new idol, but without the unquestioning confidence of the older master.

The leap from *Seated Woman* in 1967 to *Ocean Park* in 1968 is astounding. They are recognisably from the same painter, in the colour sense and the actual handling of paint, but art history can have few more instant examples of the painter finding his subject, his style and himself

all at once. Ocean Park is the unlovely area of Santa Monica where Diebenkorn lives.

Diebenkorn's still-lengthening series of *Ocean Park* paintings are abstractions painted in Ocean Park, but they are also representations of Ocean Park. The pale, washed-out colours, occasionally enlivened by a brightly painted pole or a glimpse of the vibrantly blue sea, the geometry of the building blocks and the tangle of wires: all these are present, bathed in the smog-filtered light which enriches some colours and dusts warring shades into magical new harmonies. These pictures are as sensuously beautiful and delicately strung as any painting in the world today.

Many artists outlive their reputation; others contrive to live so long that they regain it. The years of neglect for Richard Ziegler coincided with his exile here (originally to escape the Nazis) from 1937 to 1962. But now a centenarian and still going strong, he is being recognised again as one of the most distinctive artists to come out of the Weimar Republic.

To an extent Ziegler's eclipse was due to his decision to publish only under the name of Robert Ziller, and to concentrate in his published work entirely on political,

sometimes strongly satirical, caricatures, putting aside many qualities that made his work so extraordinary.

"Ziller" may have gone off in another direction, but Ziegler remained true to his original artistic impulses, moving in his paintings of the immediately pre-war years to an almost classical vision of the nude female figure, still imbued with the same rich sensuality as the drawings of the Twenties which are prominent in the centenary show at Runkel-Hue-Williams. Ziegler never slides into the misogyny, let alone misogyny, sensed in the works of George Grosz, Hubert and others. He likes women too much.

And women as people rather than as sex objects. Those in his drawings, whether the eccentric dancers so popular in Berlin at the time, the models showing stretches of frilly knickers, or the overblown matrons with furs and brandies, are strongly individual. He never allied himself to any artistic movement more defined than the Novembergruppe (which was really only a collection of heterogeneous artists in search of a show place), despite occasional resemblances to second-generation Expressionists, or the stark realism of the Neue Sachlichkeit. He found his own way.

The landscapes which make up about half of the show indicate as much. His passion for technical exploration not only sparked his creation of new graphic processes related to the classic monotype, but also produced an unmistakable style of drawing with the side of a grease crayon, to build up pictures of places from delicately graded rectangles of pigment, slightly Cubist, slightly Deco. And when he burst into colour, as he did mostly in foreign parts, his colour sense proved to be brilliantly distinctive.

After the war and his return to Germany, he took up all these interests again and refined them: making, for example, some of the century's finest book illustrations for Heinrich Mann and Voltaire.

Richard Diebenkorn, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1. (071-377 0107) Tues-Sun 11am-5pm (Wed to 8pm), until December 1. Richard Ziegler, Runkel-Hue-Williams, 6/8 Old Bond Street, W1. (071-495 7017) Monday-Friday 10am-5.30pm, until January 31.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Mixed honours among the musical memorials

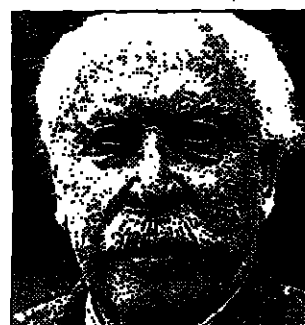
What passing-bells for these who die as cattle? No *War Requiem* this year at Remembrance weekend, no underlining of the Old Lie (as Wilfred Owen saw it: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori"). Rather, the South Bank hosted a triumvirate of concerts whose grand finale, on Sunday evening, was Bliss's sprawling five movement symphony for orator, chorus and orchestra, *Morning Heroes*: a salute to those who, in Robert Nichols's words, "arise toward the risen god".

In the presence of Owen's "Spring Offensive" not least, homage was paid to the pity of war. But this monster, composed between the wars, throws the weight of its inspiration behind Hector's decision in the *Iliad* to fight against greed, and Walt Whitman's ecstatic call to arms in "Drum-Taps".

The sentiments expressed would have been easier to stomach had the music which articulated them held them firm and true as genre piece and resonant historic document. As it was, the unearthing of this work, by Michael Kibbithwaite (who hired the London Philharmonic to accompany his three choirs, the East London, the Harlow and the Hatfield Philharmonic Chorus) served only to reveal its hollow bombast and musical verbosity.

Large sections of the text were declaimed, following Bliss's own histrionic instructions by Brian Blessed, on a cushion of what amounts to little more than mediocre film music. Those passages which were not declaimed were padded by chorus with the deadening tread of Bliss's linear and syllabic word setting barely mitigated by orchestration which draws from the full spectrum of the composer's *Colour Symphony*.

The same recitative-like word-setting dragged down Bliss's cantata *The Beatitudes*, performed on Saturday by the Bach Choir under Sir David Willcocks in a programme celebrating Masters of the



Bliss: his works sounded sprawling and bombastic

King's Music, past and present. Ironically, this piece was itself the victim of the *War Requiem*. Rehearsals for Britten's work prevented its premiere in the new Coventry Cathedral, and it has never been heard in the building for which it was intended.

Here, the anthology of metaphysical poets (plus Dylan Thomas) interspersed with settings of the Beatitudes themselves, is enlivened by writing for solo voice, and Amanda Roocroft and Philip Langridge were strong advocates for a setting which, again, failed to engage with the essential spirit and pulse of the poetry. The Bach Choir and the London Philharmonic enjoyed the slow resolving harmonies, the sudden staccato, the Easter trumpet calls which battered George Herbert's bones, the great "Amen" which sealed Jeremy Taylor's Epilogue.

Malcolm Williamson, arrayed in black and silver African splendour, was present to acknowledge a spy performance of his overture *Santiago de Espada* and to enjoy an equally trim and dapper rendering of Bax's *Tintagel*. Sir David then turned to Elgar's *Coronation Ode*, a true occasional piece, benevolent at last in its word setting, vibrant in its welcome to peace and kingship.

Elgar's cantata *The Music Makers* had preceded the Bliss *Morning Heroes* on Sunday night, and its gentle undertow of musical self-quotation and reminiscence, voiced affect-

ingly by the choirs and by Sarah Walker, drew the ear to a different aspect of remembrance. With the *Enigma Variations*, from which it subtly and movingly quotes, it anchors itself in memory for a past from which it is nevertheless drawn away into an unknown future.

There was a welcome chance to hear the *Enigma Variations* themselves, that Sunday afternoon, in a shapeless performance by David Atherton and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Its series of veils were lifted lightly and deftly before a truly celebratory performance of Britten's *Spring Symphony* by Judith Howarth, Linda Fennie, Philip Langridge, the BBC Symphony Chorus and Trinity Boys' Choir.

Here at last was a tingling engagement of word and music. The strange undertones conjured by the mezzo voice and the flute's lack of overtone in Auden's "A Summer Night", and the crescendo of vibration set drumming through Blake's "Sound the Flute", are achievements which Sunday's performers convinced us should never be taken for granted.

HILARY FINCH

RADIO

What Katy does

KATHLEEN Turner spent Thursday evening breathing details of her wardrobe into my ear. Winter in Chicago, and a girl needs to wrap up. Clothes maketh the female private eye. V.I. Warshawski in *Killing Orders* (Radio 4) — and they also maketh the female private eye's English boyfriend (Martin Shaw) when the FBI is putting the make on him. Was his pullover cashmere? In that case it would never do to spill Johnnie Walker Black Label on it, which case.

Turner, of course, could breathe life into a corpse. Considering the thinness of the material (pun), this was all to the good. Sara Paretsky's thriller is average hokum about a plot to launder illicit trillions from the Banco Ambrosiano and to terminate with extreme prejudice all those who chance upon it.

This is perhaps not incredible, what is less than convincing is the evocation of that town's actuality beyond mere backdrops such as traffic gridlock, penthouse panoramas of the Lake and elevated railways. As for the threads, they are simply snapshots from a catalogue, and it was curious that it took Michelle Wandor's workmanlike adaptation to make them interesting. This was a double radio debut for the two leads, and one should note that Turner's wardrobe will shortly be seen in another V.I. Warshawski adventure at a screen near you.

Ingrained distrust of Catholics found further expression in the first of a new series, *Thinking Aloud* (Radio 4, Sunday). Swift's priceless essay *A Modest Proposal* observes in passing that since Papists preponderate among the Irish poor, an extra social benefit would accrue from his grand scheme to recycle unwanted infants by selling them for rich men's tables. "Whether stewed, roasted, baked or boiled", human yearlings would make excellent tuck — especially recommended for wedding or christening feasts — while their flayed skins could go to the manufacture of ladies' gloves. This poked-faced exercise in logic gains in resonance across the centuries, even as its enshrinement in literature makes it "safe" for broadcast. One wonders whether the BBC would allow a new talk on a similar theme from, say, Auberon Waugh.

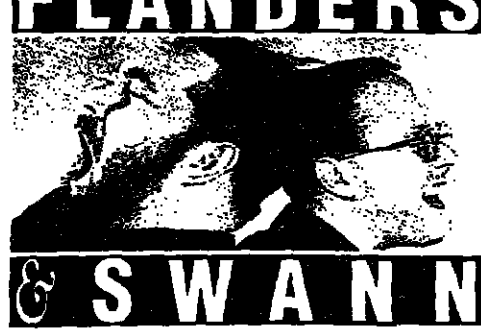
Improving my mind with Desert Island Discs (also Radio 4, Sunday) I waited for Lord Delfont to address the question of his inadvertent youthful appearance in a live sex show. The man who brought you the Royal Command Performance sounded more bemused than abashed. "I did," he said, "whatever it is people do" without realising that the bedroom in the suburbs of Amsterdam had had its walls drilled for observation. Lord Delfont loves show business.

MARTIN CROPPER

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre and Rock
page 18

**I h'aint a h'elk
I'm a Gnu**
The G'niciest work of G'nature in the Zoo
I'm a Gnu how do you do
You really ought to k-know wa whose wa who
I'm a Gnu
Spelt G.N.U.
I'm G-not a Camel or a Kangaroo
So let me introduce
I'm neither Man or Moose
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Wife and times

AFTER nine years in the West End and more than 3,500 performances, *Run for Your Wife* is finally running out of life. Ray Cooney's farce will close on December 14. Since it opened in March 1983, as the inaugural production of the newly formed Theatre of Comedy Company, it has been resident in five West End theatres and employed 33 consecutive companies of actors, including among their ranks Richard Briers, Bernard Cribbins and Les Dawson. Only *Me and My Girl* and *Joseph and his Amazing*

BRIEFING

Technicolor *Dramacut* survive as possible year-round West End showcases for refugees from the small screen.

Film file

BRITISH archivist David Francis, the former curator of Britain's National Film Archive, has been appointed director of one of the world's largest film archives: the Motion Picture Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress in Washington. The appointment of a non-American as a department head is unusual, if not unprecedented. Francis, who resigned from the Na-

tional Film Archive in 1989, was a key figure in setting up the Museum of the Moving Image on the South Bank.

Last chance...

OF THE many English groups which survive from rock's "progressive" era, The Moody Blues are the least fashionable. Their vaguely hippie philosophies set to grandiose, mellotron-swathed arrangements seemed preposterous even at the time. But who could forget the bathetic charms of "Nights in White Satin", even if they wanted to? Their British tour to promote the current album, *Keys of the Kingdom*, ends at NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) tomorrow.

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When children had to be seen and hurt

Life for Victorian infants was not all silver spoons, as Libby Purves discovers

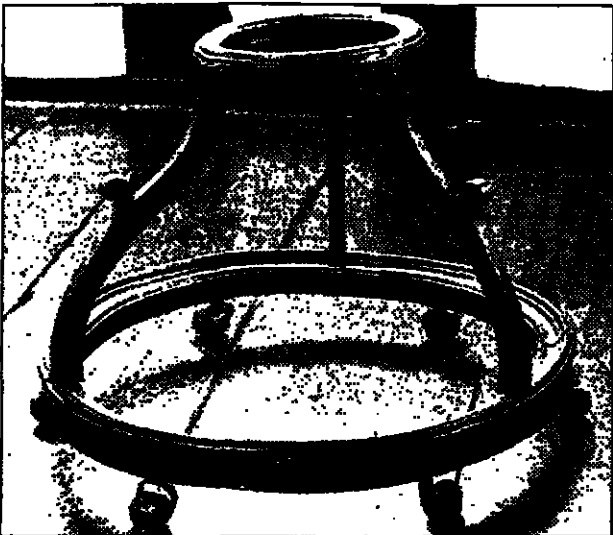
As the chestnut-roasting, firework-party season gives way to the nostalgic sentimentality of the British Christmas, an antidote appears from the unexpected direction of the antiques publishing business.

Something designed as a lush coffee-table book has ended up — thanks to its author's dogged, horrified integrity — as a grim and fascinating morality tale about parents, children and history. It could hardly come at a better time. Fed up with Bart Simpson T-shirts and toys that bleep, modern parents are suckers for the charm of "old-fashioned childhood", complete with sailor-suit and oaken high chair.

Hundreds will be drawn irresistibly to the beautiful, formal puff-sleeved 17th-century Cecil children who adorn the cover of a book called *Yesterday's Children — The Antiques and History of Childcare* (Antique Collectors Club, £25).

They will hope for a lovely unthreatening read about Bunnikins china and christening gowns, horn-books, patent perambulators and amusing Victoria playpens. "Readily Convertible into Hat Stand or Easel". All these are here, but otherwise the sentimentalist is in for a severe shock. "Saying this may not sell the book," observes its author, Sally Kevill-Davies, "but it has turned out to be a horror story."

A clergyman's wife in Hertfordshire, Mrs Kevill-Davies is herself the product of a somewhat dated childhood,



Trained for life: a 17th-century baby-walker in elm and sycamore. Crawling was thought to be bestial

having been brought up by her own mother's childhood nanny. "I was dosed a lot with foul-tasting powders in a spoonful of jam which made them taste far worse. Once I wet my pants at the cinema and she made me wear them home on the bus on my head. A generation earlier she would definitely have strapped me to a backboard."

The sense of past generations of child-rearing remained with her, and when her own third baby was born Mrs Kevill-Davies resolved to research the hitherto little-valued area of the antiques of childcare. The more she found out, the more she flinched, for you cannot study infancy in the four centuries before our own without finding yourself

amid morbidity and horror. "The whole business", she says, "was fraught with pain, danger, terror, loss, grief, exhaustion, fever and fret. For the children it was a nightmare. The worst thing is that I became convinced that there is no such thing as the maternal instinct."

"Parents have always done terrible things to children, honestly believing they had good reason. They beat small children violently because so many died, and they were afraid they'd go to hell if there was any sin left in them: there's one mother here who complains: 'I have got a pain in my back with whipping Susan today, who struggled so that I have got a wrench.'"

They swaddled babies tightly to stop their limbs growing crooked, not knowing it was rickets which caused the crookedness, and the swaddling itself almost guaranteed dislocated hips. John Evelyn's niece was crushed to death at two years old by an iron bodice.

This has been documented before but Mrs Kevill-Davies brings her own discipline to it. She worked for nine years at Sotheby's. "My whole training is with objects, and I see history through them. So I wanted to find the objects of childcare. Not toys — there's already a coterie of toy collec-

tors. Just the ordinary practical things."

Some revelations are homely and fascinating, like the fact that a wheeled baby-walker occurs in a 14th-century embroidered panel called *The First Steps of the Virgin*; or that the Victorians had a baby-bouncer harness exactly like ours only with a skirt round it to preserve onlookers from the fearful sight of small uninhibited legs. Others are harmlessly bizarre, such as the fact that an early vaginal speculum was contrived from a bent dessert-spoon and a lighted candle.

But many — even most — are harrowing in the extreme. The fact that she has built the book round solid objects, plainly photographed, brings the history of childhood too close for comfort. We may think we know about strict Victorian codes, but it is different actually to see a pair of well-worn finger-stocks, used to fasten the hands of masturbating children behind their backs, stiff stays for toddlers and correction boards for posture.

We may lack (mercifully) any photographic proof of the reliance on leeches, or of babies having live frogs in muslin put in their mouths to cure thrush, but the bottles containing poisonous laxatives and lethal opiates like "Mother Bailey's Quieting Syrup", the icy china potties, high chairs designed to prevent the baby leaning back and dreary Puritan books on *Joyful Deaths of Young Children* are still around.

Modern life is beyond the remit of her book, but Mrs Kevill-Davies is aware, as a mother of three, of certain unavoidable parallels and conclusions. "One of the most ironic and depressing facts about childcare", she writes, "is the way in which ignorance, superstition and imperfectly applied reasoning appear to have triumphed over instinct."

That mothers obey science before instinct is a truism: no doubt a useful one. After all, no woman guided only by instinct would hand over her healthy baby to be vaccinated



Happy to be a mother in this century: Sally Kevill-Davies with Edmund, her son, and his classmates from Berkway Village School

knowing it will become, briefly, unwell as a result.

So can we dissociate ourselves so easily from the mentality behind swaddling, dosing or the centuries of pathetic attempts to cure early diarrhoea by forcing solid food into newborn babies' mouths? Especially when it is not long since doctors removed tonsils, adenoids and foreskins as a routine? Can we be smug about laudanum, when question marks still hang over such things as the chemicals used in cot mattresses?

But far more sinister is the

fact that while ignorance and poverty have always killed the children of the poorer classes, cultural indoctrination and pseudo-science have done almost as much harm in the richer ones. It was not poor children whose health was ruined by posture devices, or whose leisure and independence was stolen by the bitter struggle for more and more "accomplishments".

Nor was it the children of the masses who were forced early to their feet in walking devices because crawling was "bestial", who were beaten black and blue to "break their

spirit", tortured into an upright aristocratic carriage and forbidden to eat fruit on spurious dietary grounds.

Sir Winston Churchill was farmed out to a wet-nurse, Osbert Sitwell was banned from eating bananas because they were "common" and Edith Sitwell had her nose placed in an iron press to correct its twist.

And if social expectation seems almost effortlessly able to override the better judgement of mothers, who is to say the process has stopped? What will future generations make of hoarding, of the British

fetish for early boarding school or the American one for tooth-braces worn through-out adolescence in the quest for the perfect smile?

"I think," says Mrs Kevill-Davies with a note of hopefulness in her voice, "that we have got a lot of it right today, and I am grateful to be raising my children in this century. But the book brings home the fact that cruelties have always been practised on children, in the name of sanctity or science or social graces, and probably always will be. Even parental power tends to corrupt."

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Take the plunge to unblock words

Only women, it seems, are prepared to attend workshops to learn how to write

A small ad recently appeared in the classified section of the *Spectator*. "The First Novel. Alice Thomas Ellis and Shelley Weiner are holding a series of two day personal intensive workshops for new writers, starting in January." Ms Weiner's phone, the contact number for Writer's Block, as their venture is named, has been ringing ever since. Despite horror stories of publishing fiction in Britain there are, it seems, an awful lot of women who want to learn how to do it. So far all callers have been female. "Men find it much harder to ask for help," says Ms Thomas Ellis who thinks there is something inherently sisterhood-ish about having an idea but feeling that it cannot possibly be any good. "There is also the fear of writing a first novel — a feeling

that people will disapprove", says South African-born Ms Weiner. Now 42, she was a newspaper and magazine journalist for 20 years until she went on an Arvon Foundation writing course, where Ms Thomas Ellis was one of the tutors. "At the end of five days I was the only one who hadn't written anything. I decided to write why I was so scared."

Ms Thomas Ellis, 59, saw in Ms Weiner's 400 words someone who could obviously write. "She promised to see me through my first book," Ms Weiner says. "I felt I had been given permission to say what I wanted to."

The award-winning writer who wrote her first novel at the age of 45 and won the 1991 Writer's Guild prize for best fiction with *The Inn at the Edge of the World*, kept her promise. Ms Weiner's first novel, *A Sister's Tale*, was published by Constable earlier this year. A second will be published in March and she is now half way through her fourth.

"Shelley's writing gets better all the time," Ms Thomas Ellis says. "It's a great joy when you watch someone with potential develop. What would be terrible is having to reject someone. I dread that happening."

Participants in the Camden-based Writer's Block weekends will have to produce £150 and a maximum 1,000 typewritten words. Both Ms Weiner and Ms Thomas Ellis insist they have no intention of running psychotherapy workshops for neurotic writers, but participants must in effect be prepared to take their clothes off in public. "If they are serious, they will have to have their work read out, face criticism and accept advice."

Ms Thomas Ellis says she wrote her first book out of anger at the state of the world. "Wrath can be a powerful starting point. Don't try to write what you think you ought to write. Listen to yourself and use your own voice."

SUE FOX

WOMEN HAVE A LOT ON THEIR PLATES AT THE BEST OF TIMES



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Cutting cloth to suit the pocket

Whether the 1960s will be remembered as the boom time for British fashion design or the moment when our reputation for quality and style went bust is arguable. Swinging Londoners certainly succeeded in deluding themselves — and much of the rest of the world — that fashion need be nothing more than a quick succession of cute clothes, bought for a few guineas in Bazaar or Top Gear in the King's Road.

The demand for the designer-label minidress for £9.95 may remain a fashion watershed from which our manufacturing industry has yet to recover. It meant, however, that the top British designers of the day polished up the art of making fashionable clothes that were affordable and wearable. Gerald McCann was one of them, and almost 30 years on he is still polishing that art.

In the 1960s his bra-cut dresses (is there nothing new in fashion today?) in gingham and denim, flannel gym slips with low-placed pockets and rows of pearl shirt buttons, crepe trapezes with Peter Pan collars, were worn by Jean Shrimpton, Julie Christie and Susannah York. According to Vanessa Denza, buyer at Woollands 21 Shop and a barometer of Swinging London style, his dresses were always the top sellers.

Alexander Plunket-Greene asked Mr McCann to help him stock the first boutique he opened for Mary Quant, his wife. "I did the clothes. Mary did the hats and belts," Mr McCann says. He dressed Rita Tushingham in *The Knack*. He took his collections on whistlestop tours of America. He started on television breakfast shows. When Bloomingdale's opened a Gerald McCann department, the buyer complained that she had eight customers in line for every coat on the racks.

The scale of a market where a winning style sells in thousands still astonishes him. "When you hit in America, it's Wow!" Having commuted between his own fashion house in London and New York from 1965 to 1973, Mr McCann eventually settled in to a career on Seventh Avenue, Manhattan's "fashion canyon".

Royalties on one of his design contracts — for Larry Levine, one of the biggest coat manufacturers in New York — went into five figures in his first year. Legend has it that the coats which budding designer Calvin Klein wheeled in on a rail to sell to Bergdorf Goodman, and which launched his career, were inspired by Mr McCann's fast-selling tailoring.



Model look: Gerald McCann and his three-tiered baby doll dress with a scoop neckline, in fuchsia georgette (£99)

Only the death of his father brought Mr McCann back to London and reawakened in him the urge to "do something over here", and re-educate British fashion followers that clothes can be stylish and affordable.

His first collection since he got back has taken store buyers — and customers — by surprise, not just for their simple chic and pretty detailing, but the price tags. They sell (in Fenwick, Harrods, House of Fraser stores) for about £100, and appeal to women of all ages in search of the Little Black Dress.

Gerald McCann's line of LBDs also masquerades as "little nothings" in fuchsia, pale pink or cream. A tucked and pleated short strappy dress (right) and a three-tiered baby-doll trapeze in georgette or crepe are each priced at £99. A tunic of black, fine lace is dropped over a black slip dress and tied on the hips with satin ribbon; a flirty, lingerie-style dress consists of three layers of black chiffon edged in lace; both are priced at £125. A long, strapless crepe

dress (right) costs £150. Crepe or velvet cardigan jackets (£99 and £145 respectively), trimmed with pearl buttons, satin bands and a bow, match satin and crepe slip dresses, (long £99; short £75) and a big shirt in baby pink georgette is £89. "It is one of the most exciting lines we have had this season," the buyer at Fenwick in Bond Street says. "It appeals to all ages."

Mr McCann is surprised when some retailers ask him to charge more. They find it tricky squaring his modestly-priced styles with comparable, more expensive lines hanging in their shops. "Everything over here seems to start at £400. How do these girls afford clothes like that? You can buy a perfectly nice suit in New York for £198-£200. It should be possible here," he says.

"You start with the shape. If you take a triangle for a trapeze line and do it in different fabrics — chiffon, firmer crepe or lace — it falls and moves quite differently. There are so many different ways of playing with cloth." He plays with simple polka dot prints, too, switching them from orderly patterns of white spots or a random scattering, to multicolour "confetti" dots. "Printed on different cloth, such as see-through georgette, you get exciting effects."

Mr McCann dismisses over-designed clothes as "designer drag". He thinks specialising in "Ziegfeld style" is a folly and insults a woman's intelligence. There is an obvious gap in the market for simply cut, affordable clothes. His first collection has been aimed at after-six clothes, but he plans to expand the next, for spring 1992. "The customer is the smartest person in the world. She soon decides on the winners," he says.

He still uses crepe today. "It is feminine without being yucky. It has a nice quality and moves well." Dresses and jackets are lined only when needed. Mr McCann is also working on a range of coats and suits. "A coat does not have to look boring and matronly," he says.

He graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1953 but it was ten years before he finally set up on his own with a £600 bank loan. By then he was drilled in every design discipline, from pared-down frocks for Marks & Spencer (one design of his for M & S, commissioned while he was still at the RCA, sold more than a million copies) to sleek, elegant tailoring for Harry B. Popper, the upmarket ready-to-wear fashion house where the Queen, Princess Marina and Princess Alexandra were customers.

He is exasperated by "young designer wanted" ads he sees today in fashion trade papers. "What they need is a good designer to do young clothes," he says. "Some of the styles produced by young designers look rather ancient to me. The trouble is that the industry forces them too early. They are never given the chance to make their mistakes in the backroom."

Liz Smith meets

Gerald McCann,

whose latest

collection proves

that he is still a

master of high

style at low prices



Main picture: perfect simplicity and fine detailing. A tucked and pleated dress in cream crepe created by Mr McCann as a 'tribute to Coco Chanel'.

Above: black magic. A strapless, ankle-length LBD in crepe, with crystal beading.

Photographs by John Swannell



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Blunt truth about traitors

Janet Daley says Soviet agents hoping to return to Britain should not be forgiven

Promoting a book can be a risky business when what you are touting is a confession of atomic spying. Mrs Ursula Beutons, now resident in Berlin but about to return to her native Britain for the launch of her book, is presumably hoping for the usual round of *Wogan* and *Start the Wreck*. The English version of her book, written in 1977, details the assistance she and her husband gave Klaus Fuchs in passing atom secrets to the Soviet Union.

Although M15 interviewed the Beutons, they were never charged and have been living unmolested in East Germany until now. Whether their impulse to tell all was a consequence of suddenly finding themselves citizens of a Western country, or simply the compulsion to own up which often strikes people in old age, they are clearly now expecting their native land to forgive and forget.

Sides will, no doubt, be drawn up along predictable lines. Tory backbenchers are already demanding that the Beutons be arrested and prosecuted when they arrive. Their cries will certainly be met by the compassion lobby whose refrain of "What is the point of hounding people after all these years?" is even applied to former Nazis.

I am not, by inclination, vengeful about political wrong-headedness. Many of us do stupid, irresponsible things when we are young and idealistic. But I am utterly unmoved by pleas for the forgiveness of unrepentant communist spies. An eruption of this sentiment has been provoked by the televising of Alan Bennett's play about Anthony Blunt, *A Question of Attribution*.

The depiction of Blunt, particularly as interpreted by the actor James Fox, has been attacked as ludicrously inaccurate, which is a fair comment, but the force of these criticisms implies veneration of Blunt as a man undeservedly wronged.

I never knew Blunt personally, but he was a member of my senior common room and I saw him there a number of times in the years after he was exposed. It is certainly true that he was a soft-spoken, donnish man whose slightly shuffling manner did not in the least resemble the mincing, rather rancid vanity portrayed by Fox. But his friends and former students would now have us accept a picture of him as a "parfait gentil knight" who was cruelly (and by implication, pointlessly) pursued by officious bureaucrats and a hysterical press.

Just how much cynicism should one maintain against those who aided the enemies of the democratic world under the cover, in Blunt's case, of the most privileged life this society has to offer?

Their defenders would probably claim that the ending of the Cold War should herald an amnesty for those whose sneaking thieving has now become redundant. But I believe quite the opposite: what

we have learned since the collapse of communism shows that the guilt of Western fellow-travellers cannot be shrugged off. What has become apparent is that the Soviet state was a Rurikian shambles incapable even of feeding its own population adequately or of organising the most minimally efficient system of goods distribution. A country with the potential for vast wealth through its natural resources reduced its populace to poverty, its institutions to endemic corruption and its services to Third World backwardness.

What we must ask ourselves now is the painful question of whether this appalling regime would have survived, much less become a world super-power, without the interventions of Western intellectuals. Would Russia have succeeded in holding its empire together for so long without the power it was lent by possessing atomic weapons?

The consequences of the Western infatuation with the Marxist dream do not end with the long suffering of Eastern Europeans. The passing of atomic secrets and the propping up of the Soviet Union's military power through counter-espionage also had ramifications for swaths of the Third World which were dragged into Cold War gamesmanship.

Only now that the mischievous influence of the Soviet Union is disappearing from the scene are we beginning to see the possibility of an Arab-Israeli settlement.

The atom spies deserve a special circle in hell. It was they who created the arms race and the possibility of nuclear holocaust. The promotion of the Soviet Union to the role of nuclear power not only enabled what should have been a weak player on the international stage to become a monstrously strong one, but effectively stalled the worldwide progress towards liberal democracy. Instead of an idyll of post-imperial liberation after the war, we had a poker game of countervailing forces of left and right, both hardening their positions out of nuclear paranoia.

By propping up an untenable communist regime with all the advantages that capitalist military technology could offer, Western double-agents prolonged the Cold War, strengthening the hands of militarists and totalitarians on both sides. For the more sophisticated subversive elements, this served a dual purpose: the terror of a nuclear enemy made democratic societies prey to illiberalism, which in turn could be used as evidence of the repressiveness of capitalist society.

The damage done to freedom and reason on both sides of the political divide was incalculable. The British preference for judging people by the attractiveness of their personalities rather than the morality of their acts, creates a fatal blindspot.



Blunt: his nest of spies gave Stalin the bomb

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Scotland and Wales have too much electoral sway at Westminster, argues Andrew Tyrrie

Celtic fringe benefits

The political and constitutional future of Scotland is on the agenda again following the Liberal Democrat victory in the Kincardine and Deeside by-election last week. But it is not just a matter of the Tories, who now hold only nine of the 72 seats in Scotland, arguing against the other parties' calls for a loosening of Whitehall control. There is another side to the question: Scotland's over-representation at Westminster.

The typical Scottish voter casts a vote worth a quarter again as much as that of his or her English neighbour, and the Welsh too are over-represented. In 1987, parliamentary constituencies in England had an average electorate of 68,811; those in Scotland had an average of only 54,895; in Wales 64,068. If votes were distributed equally across the United Kingdom, England would acquire 18 additional seats in the Commons, while Scotland would lose 13 and Wales five.

The over-representation that Scotland and Wales enjoy is not a legacy of the Act of Union or some other time-honoured agreement. The current position dates back only to 1944, when Parliament

decided to create four Boundary Commissions, one for each constituent nation of the United Kingdom, each with a minimum number of seats to distribute.

Before 1944, representation throughout Britain was roughly equal. Northern Ireland was under-represented, having only 12 seats when its electorate would justify 17, but that was the price of devolution. Under the 1944 Act and its amendments, the number of seats for Scotland and Wales cannot be reduced (it has in fact been increased). Under-representation of England and over-representation of Scotland and Wales has steadily increased. Indeed, with population shifts, each boundary revision has simply extended the discrepancy.

How can this be remedied? Parliament should replace the four separate Boundary Commissions with one for the whole of the United Kingdom. The commission should be charged with drawing constituencies with nearly equal numbers. (It should

also correct the over-representation of inner London by permitting constituencies to cross London borough boundaries.)

Some special allowance could be given to sparsely populated regions, so that constituencies are not unmanageably large for MPs and candidates. But the most sparsely populated regions of Scotland and Wales account for only a small minority of their seats: no more than seven of Scotland's 72, and six of Wales's 38. The remaining rural seats in Scotland and Wales are similar in size to rural seats in England.

The current anomaly is not simply a rural phenomenon. It is as flagrant in the conurbations of Wales and Scotland. Glasgow's 11 constituencies have an average electorate of 51,531; the 11 seats in largely rural Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, by contrast, have an average electorate of 77,321. If they were equally represented, Glasgow would have nine seats; Suffolk and Cambridgeshire 13. As things stand, the prime min-

ister's constituency of Huntingdon has twice as many voters as Glasgow Provan.

When it is not simply wrongly dismissed as a constitutional fact of life, the odd Scottish voice is heard justifying the status quo on overtly political grounds. It is said to be the price of the union, the alternative to devolution. That threat did almost as much to distract and destroy the last Labour government as the "winter of discontent". Devolution still haunts Labour. To repudiate it could hand Scotland to the Scottish nationalists. To embrace it carries the danger of redistribution and the loss of precious seats.

At the very least, devolution would mean a reduction of Scottish representation to English levels. More likely, the English would demand Scottish under-representation, and such a demand would have a firm precedent: the Northern Ireland devolution settlement. When the Northern Ireland parliament was created in 1920 it was granted 12

seats instead of the 17 implied by the size of its electorate. A proportionate reduction for Scotland would leave it with 42 seats, a loss of 30, making the chances of Labour ever forming a British government remote indeed.

The Scottish devolution problem explains Labour's sudden conversion to the idea of creating English regions, for which there is no popular clamour. This is one of Labour's more grotesque exercises in political expediency.

In the late 1970s, the Labour party did not bother with any such constitutional smokescreen. It merely bought off devolution by granting Scotland a so-called "block grant formula", which provided extra cash from central government. And Scotland still receives it. Needy areas in Scotland still get substantially more central government money than equally needy areas in, for example, the North-east. The Scots may continue to enjoy a larger slice of the spending cake, but at least they should concede the English an equal voice at the ballot box.

Andrew Tyrrie is the prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Houghton and Washington.

How to succeed in Europe

Charles Powell describes the tactics that will bring results at Maastricht

Just about everything in the European Community goes round in circles. Not only do the meetings, the presidencies, the European Councils come round like clock-work, so do the issues. The Community is especially prone to periodic bouts of "the vision thing".

In 1985-6 the EC's agenda was dominated by debate over European union, a debate which culminated in the Single European Act. Five years later, at Maastricht, European union will once again be top of the agenda. Is it to be *déjà vu* all over again?

Well up to a point. At stake once again are the relative powers of the member states on the one hand, and the Commission and the European Parliament on the other. But there are big differences. In 1985-6 there was no blueprint for European Union, indeed no one had the foggiest notion what it meant. That left a lot of scope for inventive diplomacy.

This time, those whose aim is to see a major transfer of powers from the member states to the Community are better organised and better prepared. The Commission and the European Parliament are more explicit about their ambitions. There are detailed and far-reaching plans on the table for economic and monetary, as well as political union.

It is precisely because the "federalists" gained so little from the Single European Act that they have come back so soon and so insistently for more. There is no doubt that the Act was a defeat for them. It conferred only modest, almost risible, extra powers on the Commission and the European Parliament, although the Commission later tried to extend these through the European Court.

Instead, and much more productively, the Single European Act extended qualified majority voting into the area of national standards and trade barriers, and so opened the way to completion

of the common market. By determined diplomacy, windy rhetoric about European union was converted into something much more tangible, to the great benefit of Europe's industries, financial services and consumers.

It will be harder to achieve such a limited and practical outcome at Maastricht. But there are some useful lessons from last time.

First, it is very easy in the EC to become obsessed by the need to get through the next meeting. Too often the underlying issues are lost in the details of the texts and the bazaar-style negotiations. Of course compromise is necessary: the Community would never get anywhere without it. But compromise begets compromise even unto the fourth or fifth generation, so that one can entirely lose sight of the original goal. Mrs Thatcher's great service at Bruges was to stand back and ask uncomfortable questions about where the EC was heading in the longer term. Such iconoclasm was regarded as highly dangerous by those who wanted the transfer of power from the member states to Brussels to be inexorable and unquestioned.

Second, make sure that words and reality match each other. Take for example the attempt in the Dutch presidency's most recent draft Treaty on political union — no happily overtaken — to bring foreign and security policy within Community bounds. One only has to remember Belgium's reluctance to sell Britain ammunition during the Gulf war to see that a country with our history and worldwide interests cannot afford to put its foreign policy at the mercy of majority voting. The truth is that when difficult decisions have to be taken, there are too many governments in Europe who prefer to duck.

Third, don't let others make willingness to cede ever greater powers a sort of loyalty test. There is a case for improving the way EC institutions function, but the test of the Community lies in its



Advice for a rainy day: Sir Charles (left) played a key role in Mrs Thatcher's EC negotiation

ability to solve problems. How to offer a stable future to Eastern Europe? How to craft an Atlantic relationship between Europe and America in a world no longer dominated by two military superpowers? How to avoid the creation of autarkic trade blocs? How to give developing countries trade opportunities, which they need in order to prosper? The Community will stand or fall by its ability to respond to these challenges, and they should take priority over institutional engineering. A vision of Europe's future which does not extend beyond the internal house-keeping of the existing Twelve is a poor thing indeed.

Fourth, don't be intimidated by deadlines or the prospect of being isolated. There is no reason to believe that a majority in Britain supports a substantial increase in the powers of the European Parlia-

ment at the expense of Westminster. Or that most people want to surrender decisions on foreign policy to Brussels. Or that they are ready to commit Britain to a single currency. We should take as much time as is needed to reach an outcome with which we can live comfortably.

Although European Councils are given the status of summits, their very frequency makes them molehills rather than mountains. Beyond each council lies another, and if there is not agreement at Maastricht, there will be in Lisbon or London. The EC is patently not ready for a cataclysmic summit in December, and we should not expect under any great pressure.

The lesson from the Single European Act is that by remoteless negotiation one can take the

wind out of overblown rhetoric and emerge with a solution that satisfies the basic requirements of all the member states, if not the appetite of the Commission and the European Parliament. We can do so this time too.

Much has been done in the past twelve months to dispel doubts, true or feigned, about our commitment to the Community. The prime minister has played his hand in masterly fashion. Combined with the foreign secretary's steadfast purpose and Tristram Garel-Jones's ability to read the European mind from inside, he has made sure we are well placed to get our way, or enough of it, at Maastricht. I believe that we shall. But it does depend on being ready if necessary to make a stand and just say no.

Sir Charles Powell was private secretary to Mrs Thatcher.



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

One October afternoon in 1866, Edward Lear went by train to Lewes. He found himself sharing a carriage with a large gentleman, two ladies and a variety of children reading his *Book of Nonsense*. As he sat there in silence, he was puzzled to hear the gentleman inform the ladies with great authority that the author of *A Book of Nonsense* was really Lord Derby. "If you will transpose the letters 'L-E-A-R'", explained the large gentleman, "you will read simply Edward Earl."

Lear could remain silent no longer. "That is quite a mistake," he piped up. "I have reason to know that Edward Lear the painter and author wrote and illustrated the whole book."

"And I" replied the gentleman, "have good reason to know, Sir, that you are wholly mistaken. There is no such person as Edward Lear."

"But there is," replied Lear. "and I am the man — and I wrote the book!"

Whereupon — Lear later recalled — "all the party burst out laughing and evidently thought me mad or telling fibs. Only when he had passed his hat around so that everyone could see his name in it did the laughter cease, and I left them to gnash their teeth in trouble and tumult."

How Lear would have chuckled at the multiplicity of rumours, simultaneously nonsensical and plausible, that have circulated over the past week

concerning the death of Robert Maxwell. Just as the name Edward Lear could be transposed so neatly into Edward Earl, so all the eight "Unanswered Questions" posed by *The Observer* on Sunday have an ominous internal logic.

Conspiracy theories are often framed after the deaths of famous people. Like a kaleidoscope, the conspiracy theory can create satisfying shapes and patterns from even the most random details. After Lincoln's assassination, one book claimed that Booth had not been caught, another that he had committed suicide. Still others said Lincoln had been killed on the orders of his cabinet, or by Roman Catholics or Southerners.

Conspiracy theories on the assassination of Kennedy continue to flourish. In his book *The New Apocalypse*, John Sladek reports that probably the wildest of all theorists is George C. Thompson, who believes that "five people were killed in Dealey Plaza. There were at least 22 bullets fired. The suspect is Lyndon B. Johnson. An automatic weapon equipped with a silencer was used. Kennedy was not killed. He was impersonated in the Presidential limousine by Officer J.K. Tippit."

Just as Kennedy cheated death, so did Hitler. James Dean, Glenn Miller, Rudolf Valentino, the Russian royal family, Jim Morrison, Amelia Earhart and, of course, Elvis. In each case, claims for their living on have been backed by an

impressive range of facts, coincidences and statistics. A new twist came in the late 1960s, when diligent observers collected evidence proving Paul McCartney was not alive but dead, an impostor having stepped into his shoes. This was just one item of proof provided in a list of 25 specially compiled by *Rolling Stone* magazine. "On the cover of *Abbey Road*, the fake 'Paul' is barefoot (corpse are often buried without shoes) and out of step with the other Beatles. His eyes appear to be closed. The other Beatles wear clothing contributing to the motif. John, all in white, is the preacher; Ringo, all in black, is the pallbearer; George, all in denim, is the gravedigger. There is also a Volkswagen with the license number '28 IF', symbolising that McCartney would have been 28 years old if he had lived."

Had Robert Maxwell's corpse remained undiscovered, there would have been sightings galore of him alive. One day, he would have been spotted disguised as a farmer in Uruguay, the next chewing gum in an Ealing dinette. As it is, we will have to make do with theories regarding an assassination. I shall read them all avidly. That other great nonsense writer Lewis Carroll (a man some still believe to have been a front for Queen Victoria) celebrated the practice of believing as many as six impossible things before breakfast. Recent history convinces me that come teatime, at least one of them generally turns out to be true.

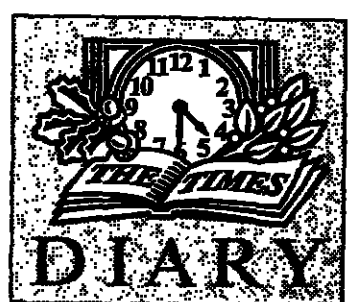
My word against yours

LAUNCHED last week, Princess Michael of Kent's new book, *Cupid and the King*, has been much praised. All her own work, noted the commentators, with one eye on the allegations of plagiarism which dogged her first book, *Crowned in a Far Country*.

But biographer Christine Sutherland is far from happy. She says that one of the five chapters in the princess's book on Marie Walewska, Napoleon's mistress, is remarkably similar to her own book, *Marie Walewska, Napoleon's Great Love*, published 11 years ago, which is on sale in paperback.

"Part of Princess Michael's book is heavily based on mine," says Sutherland, a long-standing friend of the princess. "The construction and some of the quotations are the same." Sutherland cites her description of Marie's joy at her pregnancy. "But now Marie felt a child by the man she had worshipped for so long but she knew that for Napoleon this meant the reassurance he had so desperately longed for through the years." Princess Michael's book reads: "In September, Marie realised that she was pregnant. To know she would have the child of the man she loved fulfilled her completely. Her happiness and his knew no bounds. This was the greatest gift she could give him, and it provided the reassurance he had craved for so many years."

The princess acknowledges Sutherland's book in her bibliography and the text, and her words are different. But Sutherland says they have a familiar ring. She says she sent the manuscript by the princess 18 months ago. "She asked me to be an angel and give



her my comments, and point out any inaccuracies. I replied that I could not edit some of my own work." The next that Sutherland knew was when a copy was delivered to her with compliments of the princess.

Cockney triumph

BETTER late than never. Buckingham Palace has bowed to superior cockney wisdom. For 210 years, King William III's "Route du Roi" carriage drive through Hyde Park has been affectionately known as "Rotten Row", although officially remaining King's Road. Now Buckingham Palace has decided to endorse the better-known name.

The change coincides with the restoration, after 50 years, of the cast-iron railings and gas-lamp standards along the mile-long driveway, the first lamplight road in Britain, which opened in 1690.

"Rotten Row, while never acknowledged with a sign-post, is on London street maps. Everyone knows it by its cockney nickname," says Neil Mitchell, chairman of the Rotten Row tercentenary committee, which was responsible for restoring the ornamental ironwork to its pre-war glory. The railings were removed on Herbert Morrison's orders as part of the war effort.

Quit cutting

TOM KING, who has spent the past few months cutting the grass down to size, has now started on the Ministry of Defence. The defence secretary, as his biographer says by marching up to the contractors hard at work on the ministry's immaculately mown lawns, yesterday delivered an unexpected order: "Go away."

King had in mind a naval ban on grass-cutting over the winter when he arrived outside the ministry yesterday morning. "Why were they cutting the grass in November?" he demanded. "All they'll do is swish up the leaves and damage the grass. I told them to go away. This was as much an ecological as an economic thing. It's wrong to overcut the grass anyway. At this time of the year grass needs to be left alone."

British stage. Sir Peter Hall, the founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, says that without her the RSC would still be a dream.

"Peggy was the first actress to agree to sign up. It was because she joined that the RSC came into being in 1959," says Hall. "She was a giant of the stage even then. I did not have to work hard to persuade her. But she was the one person I wanted above all else to join."

Hall, who worked with her 20 times, will speak for eight minutes at the memorial service on November 29. Harold Pinter, Sir John Gielgud and Janet Suzman will also address the service. Trevor Nunn, who directed Ashcroft in only his second RSC production, at the age of 24, is helping to organise the service. He says: "It is fitting that Sir John Gielgud will end the service, as his professional partnership with Peggy was the longest."

Janet Suzman will be reading from Dylan Thomas. But she says of the actress, who came to epitomise the English lady, that there was a rawer side to her character. "I'll never forget the first time I heard her swear, it was in the Green Room at Stratford. She swore like a trooper."

John Major's wish to see more women in the upper echelons of public life has had an effect at the seventh time since 1864, the society for giving its Albert Medal, for the promotion of the arts, manufactures and commerce, to a woman. Lady Seear, the Liberal Democrat peer, will receive the honour from the Duke of Kent, the RSA's president, tomorrow night. Seear is in good company. The other women to win the award include Queen Victoria, Madame Curie, Queen Mary, the Queen and the Queen Mother.

Nothing like a Dame

WHEN Dame Peggy Ashcroft's theatrical friends gather in Westminster Abbey at the end of the month, one will have more reason than most to pay tribute to the former first lady of the



AUSTRIA SHIFTS RIGHT

The past five years have not been kind to Austria. Since the election of President Waldheim in 1986 the world has turned an increasingly critical eye on Austria's image of a tranquil and neutral Alpine playground. The exposure has revealed a dark side to the picture: a country that has yet to come to terms with its Nazi past, a corrupt political system, xenophobic and steeped in economic corporatism. A recent poll found that Jews, a tiny percentage of the population, are still resented by many Austrians. Even some of the young appear to have inherited the anti-semitic virus. Local elections at the weekend further buoyed the far right, almost trebling support for the Freedom party and pushing it ahead of the conservative People's party in Vienna.

The political establishment has expressed shock and incredulity, and is predictably nervous about foreign reaction. It should not be surprised. Coalitions between the dominant Social Democrats and the People's party have dominated Austrian politics since the 1953 state treaty and have deprived voters of any real choice. Even when the two main parties have been on opposite sides of the government benches, there is hardly a difference between their policies.

Such coalitions may have been necessary to steer Austria through the shoals after the withdrawal of occupation forces. Over the years, stability bred complacency; a bloated state bureaucracy led to corruption. Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's long rule was marred by a banking scandal that brought down his finance minister. The tentacles of corruption wrapped themselves round his successor, Fred Sinowatz. Although Franz Vranitzky, the current Chancellor, is one of the clean men of Austrian politics, voters have tired of the Vienna coterie.

The consequence is becoming alarmingly familiar across 1990s Europe. Jörg Haider, the leader of the Freedom party, is a contrast. He is young, energetic and good-looking. He speaks his mind and articulates the complaints of those who have not benefited from 30 years of prosperity, playing freely on old and new prejudices. His party policies are a mixture of economic

liberalism and nationalism. Its older members include former Nazis looking for a respectable political home. It also includes young people for whom old party loyalties, forged during the violent pre-war suppression of Red Vienna, have little contemporary relevance. They resent foreign pressure on Austria during the Waldheim affair to confront a previously unacknowledged war guilt.

This right-wing movement might have made little headway had Austrians not faced a prospect that the two main parties have been slow to recognise. The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe has not only deprived Austria of the profits to be made from being a listening post of the West towards the East. It also threatens a wave of economic refugees.

Austria has often been generous in taking in those fleeing oppression, as thousands of Hungarians found after 1956. But like Switzerland, it has moved them swiftly to Israel, the United States or anywhere beyond its borders. Now swatches from south-eastern Europe may try to migrate west. On Austria's southern frontier, the Yugoslavian civil war threatens further refugees. Austria is watching with anxiety, sending troops to the border and scrambling its air force. The weekend elections, although for local councils, reflected these fears. Herr Haider's slogan was potent: "Vienna for the Viennese".

Pointing out the dangers of right-wing politics to a generation for whom Dr Dollfuss and the Anschluss is only vague history is of little use in meeting these developments. Austrian politics must be brought out of provincialism. The entry of Austria into a wider European Community is clearly one route towards this goal. But that community is no protection against the reactionary forces that Herr Haider represents, as the upsurge of nationalist sentiment in France and Germany is proving. The Community must itself look east and rebuild by free trade those shattered economies if the migration on which far-right reaction feeds is to be stemmed.

SAVED BY GREEK SMOKE

Vasso Papandreou, the European Community's social affairs commissioner, wants tobacco advertising banned throughout the community. As the EC's proposed directive is subject to majority voting, Britain, Germany and other governments opposed to a ban have no veto. One more negative vote was necessary, and now the Greek government has promised it. Thus, and only thus, are the constant interferences of Jacques Delors' Brussels commissioners in the properly domestic affairs of member states held in check. Whatever the arguments for or against the marketing of cigarettes, they are for individual governments to decide. They are not a matter of "Commission competence".

Greece is motivated partly by a desire to protect its domestic tobacco industry. Britain's motives are no doubt as mixed, though here it is British advertising (and the commercial mass media) as much as the tobacco industry which stands to suffer. Few people have hands which are metaphorically unstained by nicotine; any measure which cuts cigarette sales reduces government tax revenue, and hence means higher taxes elsewhere. Likewise newspapers would find it harder to survive without money from tobacco advertising. *The Times* must declare an interest.

This is not the issue here. A measure to make it an offence to propagate certain views (even the view that cigarette smoking is enjoyable) violates the principle of free speech. It requires a most powerful overriding argument of public safety or security. Tobacco advertisements, restricted in many EC countries on the basis of agreed protocols, are not evils so great as to demand or require community-wide legislation, least of all the provisions of the Treaty of Rome covering the elimination of barriers to trade

after 1992. Uniformity in this matter is not necessary for a single market. The failure of France to impose such a ban within French boundaries would not alter the effectiveness of such a ban in Spain.

A majority vote by EC ministers — on the pretext of promoting the single market — could never have a sufficient moral or political foundation for a Europe-wide advertising ban. Such overreaching of its proper powers by the EC will rapidly rebound on it, encouraging the various national publics to resent and disobey such interference.

Tobacco and its products are lawful goods, lawfully traded. Consuming them involves a risk to health, but so do other harmful substances such as alcohol, or other potentially dangerous activities such as fast driving. It is fair to ask whether the activity or product itself should be banned. But it makes little sense to permit a product to be traded and promoted in every sense but that of advertisement, thus outlawing traffic only in the "idea" of the product. This smacks at one level of thought-control, at another of the restless nannying now so prevalent among burgeoning public officialdom, in town hall, Whitehall or Brussels.

If the British government feels the need to discourage tobacco sales beyond the restrictions already in force, they can do so by further raising taxes and levies on sales or marketing. Cigarette manufacturers might be obliged, for instance, to spend as much on fighting the diseases caused by their product as they now pay for advertising it. But this is none of Brussels' business. Is there no cranny of British life free of this spreading plague? Yesterday the decision to ban cigarette advertising was postponed, not abandoned. How many more times will the Greeks have to be sought out to protect Britons in their liberty?

CLOSED STUDENT SHOPS

When is a union not a union? Answer: when it is a students' union. When is a closed shop not a closed shop? The answer is the same. These anomalies have come under scrutiny this week, with the case of two women now risking expulsion from Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies, because they refuse to pay subscriptions to their students' union. Unlike most students, whose union dues are paid along with their tutorial fees by local education authorities, Miss Emma Perry and Miss Julia Ball are paying for their courses with part-time jobs. Their compulsory union membership costs them £30.40 per annum. They think this excessive for services which they do not use.

According to natural justice, these two students — and many others who agree with them — have a strong case. With the law as it stands, they appear to have no redress. A test case brought before the European Court of Human Rights last month found that students' unions should properly be considered as part of public institutions, not as trade unions. The legal framework created in the 1980s, which virtually outlawed closed shops, does not apply. As friendly societies, students' unions are exempt.

Yet the principle of compulsory membership should be no less alien to the character of the friendly society, which is a voluntary association to provide benefits. Real trade unions do indeed have little in common either with college unions, which each receive up to £1 million a year of taxpayers' money from the institutions to which they are

attached, or with the National Union of Students, which receives over £2 million a year from its affiliated unions. From the students' point of view, these bodies are chiefly state-funded providers of facilities, not channels for bargaining with employers.

However, for many of the 80 staff of the NUS and their equivalents — often "sabbatical" officers — in the college unions, their main function is indeed political. The government, which determines grants and education policy, is seen as an employer-substitute: the union campaigns for higher grants and against student loans. Six weeks ago, the NUS launched a campaign to target 70 constituencies in which Tory MPs were vulnerable to the student vote.

Whether students' unions are essentially welfare organisations or representative bodies, the right of an individual not to belong to them is important. One solution would be for local authorities to waive the obligatory union dues of self-financed students in further education, such as Miss Perry and Miss Ball, whose grievance is that they are paying for what they do not want or use. This would not get to the heart of the matter, which is the fiction that these unions represent 1.5 million students, nearly all of whose fees are paid for them and many of whom do not share the political enthusiasms of the elected officials. A new statute is needed to enshrine the voluntary principle in British student representation: difficult, as the government has found in the past, but a worthy task for the next Parliament.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Approaching Maastricht with care

From Mr Jacques A. Arnold, MP for Gravesend (Conservative)

Sir, The incessant speculation in the media about splits in the Conservative party over Europe is increasingly tiresome. The decisions to be taken at Maastricht on the political, financial and economic future of Europe are fundamental to the well-being of the people of this country and of our continent.

Conservative MPs are carrying out their constitutional duty in thoroughly debating these complex issues, both in the Chamber and outside, and are making their views known on the detailed points in advance of the crucial decisions next month.

By contrast, the Labour front bench and most of their backbenchers are failing in their constitutional duty, putting electoral considerations ahead of national interest and largely remaining silent on the most vital set of issues of the day. They confine their remarks to mere about inter-party squabbles. At least the Liberals are clear in their views: they have nailed their colours to the Berlaymont building's mast-head.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD,
House of Commons,
November 10.

From Mr Bernard C. Jenkin

Sir, The government's measured and cautious approach towards Maastricht is entirely justified.

There was no mention of economic and monetary union in the "common market" referendum of 1975; indeed, repeated assurances were made to dismiss fears of a superstate. "There will not be a blueprint for a federal Europe, however much some individuals may want to have it", Edward Heath declared in the House of Commons

on February 25, 1970 (Hansard, col 1221). His 1971 white paper further assured us: "There is no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty" (Cmd. 4715, p8).

Today, the EC controls very substantial revenues called "own resources", accountable only to EC institutions. Parliament is powerless to protect us from EC directives which must be made law. Our judges and even Parliament itself must obey the rulings of the European Court (which has a worrying tendency constantly to widen the scope of EC law in favour of integration). Some constitutional lawyers argue that this is already an emerging federation in all but name.

In your correspondence columns (November 1) Lord Bethell, MEP, proposed strengthening the European Court (which has a worrying tendency constantly to widen the scope of EC law in favour of integration). Some constitutional lawyers argue that this is already an emerging federation in all but name.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD JENKIN
(Prospective parliamentary candidate for Colchester North, Conservative),
North Colchester Conservative Association.

78 Malden Road, Colchester, Essex, November 11.

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, With reference to your report on Wednesday, November 6, I have no intention of going to Maastricht and have never had any such intention.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH,
House of Commons,
November 8.

A gap in the ranks

From Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP for Perth and Kinross (Conservative)

Sir, On Saturday evening, the annual Festival of Remembrance was held in the Royal Albert Hall in London, capital of the United Kingdom. It was the first such occasion since the Gulf war, in which the Scottish infantry regiments, highland and lowland, fought so bravely, in disproportionate numbers, and suffered disproportionate casualties, as they have done in every conflict in which they have been engaged for the Sovereign and the Union, since 1707.

Yet, in the presence of the prime minister of the United Kingdom,

and the defence secretary who ordered the Scottish infantry regiments to the Gulf war and has now ordered the destruction of four of them by amalgamation, there was not a single representation of our highland and lowland infantry regiments on the evening of the morrow of the Kincardine rout, caused by the proposed extinction of The Gordon Highlanders and The Queen's Own Highlanders.

For the first time ever, since the service was initiated, not a bagpipe was heard, nor kilt or tartan on parade.

Will the government never learn? I remain, Sir, a devout unionist,
NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN,
House of Commons,
November 10.

Sexual harassment

From Mr Thomas E. Watts

Sir, I acted for Dr Malcolm Smith in the slander action referred to by Mr Paul Nicholls (letter, November 7). Dr Smith was accused of sexual harassment and indecent assault against both Dr Houston and members of her staff. Had these accusations been true, then not only would Dr Smith's entire career as a family doctor have been ruined but also he would have been liable to conviction for a series of serious criminal offences. That is the cloud which had been hanging over Dr Smith for two years.

It is therefore artificial to compare the damages awarded for publicly and falsely accusing a family doctor of sexual harassment and indecent assault with damages for sexual harassment itself.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS E. WATTS,
19-21 Kensington Church Street, W8.

Librarian's decree

From the District Librarian of Newark

Sir, The handsome volume first published in 1848 on the *Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent* does indeed reside in the Local History Collection at Newark-on-Trent library (Mr Selwyn's letter, November 7) and a superficial glance at its title could indeed raise queries as to its location on our shelves.

Closer checking, however, will ascertain that the volume was translated by the Reverend James Waterworth and carries a significant foreword by that Catholic theologian, who resided in Newark for some 40 years until his death in 1876.

The function of a local history collection is to seek out and preserve for present and future generations all printed materials relating to an area. The selection and location of the volume is exactly correct.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. J. VINNICOMBE,
District Librarian, Newark Library,
Beaumont Gardens, Baldertongate,
Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.

Behind the times?

From Mr Michael G. R. Stamford

Sir, Mr Bird (letter, November 8) is quite right: the BBC should use the 24-hour clock, as it already does on the World Service and on Ceefax. All video recorders use it, and many of us have been known to set recording times of programmes wrongly due to a misinterpretation of the published times.

If the 24-hour clock is seen as too dramatic a change, could not "pm" times be printed in *italics* — a system long established in the USA?

Yours faithfully,
MIKE STAMFORD,
13a Pelham Road,
Grimsby, South Humberside.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Transport provision as key to growth

From the Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his autumn statement (report, November 7) that an additional £2.6 billion would be made available for transport spending over the next two years. Practically all of the additional funds will go into BR and London Transport; hence, the Chancellor's statement reflects a shift of resources towards public transport.

These are clear indications that the government is increasingly moving towards a more co-ordinated approach to transport provision and such a shift in policy is heartily applauded by the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Earlier this year, in May, the secretary of state for transport declared himself "enthusiastically and unequivocally" in favour of a more positive role for railways in transportation. Mr Rifkind's views in these areas differed little from those of the professional institutions active in the transport field.

Indeed, a remarkable uniformity of opinion has developed amongst the professional community that the only feasible way of tackling the serious problem of congestion is to achieve a greater degree of co-ordination between the various transport modes, with much greater

emphasis on public transport provision to relieve the intractable problem of congestion in urban areas.

The merits of such a co-ordinated approach must be obvious to anyone aware of the relationship between car use and economic growth, and the massive social, economic and environmental costs of excessive motor car usage, patently obvious to all city dwellers.

In order to thrive and prosper urban communities need high quality and efficient public transport systems. For example, the Thameslink 2000 project, involving *inter alia* a substantial increase in capacity on the approaches to London Bridge station, will have these beneficial effects.

A greater degree of government support for public transport systems in other parts of the country would have great economic and social benefits; we applaud the autumn statement to the extent that it presages a greater commitment by the government towards a more co-ordinated and balanced approach to the vital issue of transport provision.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. DOBSON, Director General,
The Institution of Civil Engineers,
Great George Street,
Westminster, SW1,
November 8.

Tobacco advertising

From Mr Christopher Bullock

Sir, There is no conclusive evidence that tobacco advertising encourages anyone, including children, to start smoking or to smoke more (letter, November 8).

In a recent landmark decision in Canada, a superior court judge overturned an act banning tobacco advertising. After spending nearly 12 months studying all the available evidence on advertising and tobacco consumption, he concluded:

"The virtual totality of the scientific documents in the State's possession at the time the Act was passed do not demonstrate that a ban on advertising would affect consumption."

In both Canada and New Zealand, cited by anti-smokers as countries where advertising bans have led to reductions in tobacco consumption, insufficient time has elapsed since those bans were imposed for any clear consumption

trends to have emerged. In New Zealand, advertising was banned ten months ago. Claims that it has reduced consumption are based on one study covering only six months.

That study considered cigarette sales in supermarkets, which account for no more than 20 per cent of total retail sales. The methodology of that study has been criticised by Peter Mullins, a New Zealand statistics expert at the University of Auckland, as being loosely interpreted and coloured by personal views.

Everybody is entitled to their own subjective opinion on tobacco advertising, but, in considering legislation to ban it, some factual objectivity is required on so important an issue.

Yours sincerely,
C. BULLOCK,
(Director, Public Affairs),
Tobacco Advisory Council,
Glen House, Stag Place, SW1,
November 8.

Medical negligence

From Mr D. H. Evans

Sir, The health secretary's proposals for streamlining the disposal of medical negligence claims (report, October 30) are welcome in principle, but considerable practical reservations are necessary.

I would be wary, for instance, of advising any health authority client of mine to participate in a system of arbitration which did not allow representation before the panel. Whether the issue to be decided is liability or, simply (where liability has been admitted) the amount of damages, the accurate assessment of evidence cannot rely on written submissions alone.

The evidence of a witness can only be accurately assessed if that witness is seen giving evidence and is then subject to cross-examination. In cases of any complexity (and few

medical negligence cases are not complex) the proposed system will not entail the comprehensive review of the evidence that is required in such cases.

I also have reservations about involvement of two doctors on the panel. There may be a tendency for those doctors to judge the treatment at issue by applying their own knowledge and standards rather than the conventional legal test whereby the treatment is judged against the practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of medical men. There should be a specialist panel of judges to hear such claims more expeditiously and efficiently.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. EVANS,
Capsticks (Solicitors),
General Accident Building,
77-83 Upper Richmond Road, SW15,
October 30.

Cholesterol levels

From the Director of the Coronary Prevention Group

Sir, Professor Oliver (letter, November 4) highlights some interesting findings from studies about the effect of individuals' lowering their cholesterol, but this should not dissuade anyone from eating a low-fat diet.

There is excellent evidence that populations with low cholesterol levels have low rates of coronary heart disease. Whatever the arguments about how much good you can do by lowering your cholesterol levels we should all agree on the importance of not getting high levels in the first place.

A healthy diet begins in childhood and we should be making sure all our children get good nutrition education and good school meals.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL O'CONNOR, Director,
The Coronary Prevention Group,
102 Gloucester Place, W1.

Clerical stipends

From Mr Harry Price

Sir, Your leading article of November 5, "Scenes from clerical life", caused me to fear for the financial future of the Church of England and clergy salaries. I doubt if 1 per cent of those on the electoral roll, or one in a thousand of people who claim to be members of the Church of England, could state how much their vicar is paid and the source of such money.

In the past 30-odd years the parish churches have lost control of their vicarages, their "quota" contribution towards their vicars' salaries (not even an Easter offering could be given without it being deducted from his salary), and, in my diocese, the insurance of the church buildings.

In place of all this the parish church council pay the nebulous quota which varies between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of total income. The synods, having taken financial control of so much of parish expenses, will have to be far wiser in the future if they think the laity will provide more in the collections to make up the shortfall of Church Commissioners' contributions and the extra salaries needed.

There is only one course open: to

tell each parish what it has to do to find the cash for upkeep of the vicarage and the vicar's salary then the church will have to close by 2005.

Yours in deep sorrow,
HARRY PRICE,
16 Walnut Tree Walk, Ratton,
Eastbourne, Sussex,
November 7.

From Dr Geoffrey Soden

Sir, Anglican clerics who consider themselves underpaid should reflect on the lot of their predecessors early in the century. In my 30 years in the Anglican ministry, before I became a Roman Catholic in 1960, I never received more than £650 p.a. out of which I had to pay my pension premium and dilapidations, amounting in one year to £500.

On the other hand, my father, grandfather and great-grandfather were paid even less; but unlike most of the clergy today, they had private incomes, without which they could never have sent their sons to public schools and to Oxbridge.

In my 90th year, I subscribe myself
Your obedient servant,
GEOFFREY SODEN,
Buck Brig, Hanworth,
Norwich, Norfolk,
November 7.

Proper persons

From Mr Peter Overy

Sir, I was amused to read in the story regarding photos on driving licences (November 5) that examples of a "responsible member of society" were given as "a doctor, police officer, or clergyman".

What other occupations should we deem responsible in the 1990s?

Yours faithfully,
PETER OVERY,
64a Grosvenor Road,
Hford, Essex,
November 6.

Dire warning

From Mr Stuart R. King

Sir, I am reassured to note that the Governor and the Company of the Bank of England include a copyright notice at the foot of the recently redesigned £5 and £20 bank notes. With the threat of civil action for breach of copyright, even the most zealous of counterfeiters are sure to have second thoughts.

Yours faithfully,
STUART R. KING,
107 Warwick Avenue, W9,
November 9.

Threads from a strong yarn

Bold: Marie Brassard and Richard Fréchette in *The Dragons' Trilogy*THEATRE
The Dragons' Trilogy
Riverside, Hammersmith

AT ONE end is what might be a telephone pole and might be a street lamp. At the other is a tiny, grubby kiosk that can variously become a Chinese laundry, an airport gift-shop or simply a grey-green door for people to enter or exit through. Between the two, hemmed in by tiers of spectators, there stretches a strip of sand. That is stage enough for Robert Lepage, the young Quebec director, and his eight-person Repère Company. With no more than the odd prop — here a table, there a bike, and there a brand to light up the mark — they collectively evoke some 70 years of confusion and cultural contradiction in their native Canada.

The whole *Dragons' Trilogy* lasts six hours, and may be swallowed whole on each of the next two Saturdays and Sundays, or taken in half portions on weeknights. Either way, those with a serious interest in contemporary theatre should grudgingly admit themselves to see a saga that admittedly has its bum-numbing moments, but is never less than bold and imaginative. And if that sounds an equivocal recommendation, let me add that the piece has something not often found in performance art or avant-garde drama: a strong story line.

Lepage's main plot begins arrestingly, with the arrival in Quebec City's Chinatown of an immigrant from Hong Kong, born in Hong Kong, bred in Britain, and as played by the quietly powerful Robert Bellefeuille, racially

uncategorisable. He knocks half-heartedly on the door of the Wong family, only to find himself led by an unsmiling proprietor into a spidery basement, offered opium, and asked to share his expertise at poker. It is a lesson that has consequences. Before

long Wong's winnings include not only the last cents of an alcoholic French-Canadian barber, but his shop and, finally, his pregnant daughter, Marie-Michèle's Jeanne.

There follow the twin tales of Jeanne's uneasy marriage to Wong

Junior and of her daughter Stella, who ends up dying beneath a blood-streaked sheet in a madhouse. Alongside this runs the story of her cousin, Marie Gignac's artless, bubbling French-Canadian, who reproduces more conventionally. It is her son, a nervous artist also played by Bellefeuille, who seems most likely to reconcile a wary East and a sometimes callous West. He ends up attached to the granddaughter of the Japanese sub-plot, has a rather flimsy pregnancy, and a rather flimsy Finkerton from across the border.

By then the action has shifted from the Twenties to the Eighties, and from Quebec to Toronto to Vancouver. The result is intellectually not very challenging. Lepage's overall plot is hardly more than that there lies a lot of human history beneath modern cars and parking spaces, that the Canadian Babel is a fascinating and troubling place, and that both Yins and Yangs are to be welcomed. Yet who can deny that he fulfils his major purpose, which is to tantalise the eyes and touch the zones of feeling behind them?

Reality becomes memory becomes dream becomes fantasy becomes reality again; English becomes French becomes Chinese and, in a brief comic interlude, even Italian; and Robert Caux's haunting score rises to Lepage's quirkier staging, such as the rushing, flaming wheel-chair meant to symbolise a play crash. The cast ends up padding with a vast red dragon, the kind found on high and holy days in our own Chinatown. But where is the company in Britain to match their simple daring?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERT

Nicholas Daniel
BBC Concert Hall

YOUNGER readers may need reminding of Janet Craxton, who died ten years ago. Renowned especially for her performances of the Mozart quartet, she also quietly and determinedly got on with the job of playing Stockhausen and Boulez with the London Sinfonietta. It is therefore altogether appropriate that Nicholas Daniel, one of her several distinguished pupils, should be starting a collection of new pieces as a permanent, growing memorial. Ten were presented in this concert, to be broadcast around the end of the year: quite a feat for Daniel, who played throughout with characteristic keenness, intense focus and tonal beauty.

The composers covered three or four generations, from Tippett to Daniel Chua (a grab-it-all piece, with inside-piano sounds and abundant, if loose, energy). Inevitably there was quite a range of styles, too, the extremes here represented maybe by Maxwell Davies's meditative and looping solo flight, *First Grace* of

Light, abstracted but with touches of Scots, and Simon Bainbridge's *Mobile*, firmly embedded in the rising gesture from the finale of *Das Lied der Erde* while suggesting the possibilities of the cor anglais as a jazz instrument. But all through, if only because of Daniel's playing, the oboe and its deeper sister seemed to be instruments of alert song.

Other striking moments came in John Woolrich's *Another Garden*, a tense and abrupt dialogue for oboe and piano; in the gentle and haunting *Reed Song* by Neil Saunders; in Oliver Knussen's *Elegiac Arabesques*, where cor anglais and clarinet (Joy Farrall) soon come to decide they have had enough elegy and will cheer each other up; and most particularly in Birtwistle's *An Interrupted Endless Melody*, the endless melody being the oboe. This had all the strength, presence, rotating growth and distinctiveness of Birtwistle's melodic writing in *Secret Theatre*, interrupted because it has to be cut to the length of the nervous brushed gestures in the piano accompaniment (defiantly played by Julius Drake). Oboists are in for a treat, and a challenge, when the collection is published.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DANCE

Valli Subbiah/
Douglas Wright
The Place

DANCE Umbrella is drawing to a close as it begins six weeks of its presentations widely acknowledged as maintaining a surprisingly high standard. Last week The Place showed two unusual and completely different productions: a Euro-Indian collaboration and works by a new choreographer from New Zealand.

Valli Subbiah presented *Trikonam*, with Subbiah and Shantala Shivalingappa in Indian choreography by Savitri Nair, and Koen Onzja

performing dances by Maurice Béjart that combined virtuosic ballet steps with poses and gestures from Indian art. The title is Sanskrit for triangle and carries symbolic associations for the creators. The piece tells of a demon (Onzja), who persuades the god Shiva to give him destructive power and has to be tricked by another god, Vishnu, in the form of a beautiful woman. In the destroying himself rather than others. Thereupon his energy is brought back to a divine state in a final tri that resolves discord into peace and joy.

This simple and pleasing basic gives rise to complex but clear dances set to traditional Indian music. The smooth relationship of the contrasted elements must owe something to Béjart's long interest in Eastern philosophy

Tin Machine
Brixton Academy

THE name David Bowie possesses enough residual magic to ensure that his Tin Machine "project" played to full houses on its recent European tour. But can a name be alluring indefinitely? It would seem that Bowie is cutting the issue rather fine.

Tin Machine, his foray into no-frills hard rock, has taken a brutal critical pasting. The music has been derided as dull, the maestro as a risk-taking bandwagon-jumper. The band's realisation has been T-shirts bearing an emphatic vernacular statement of allegiance to the group. These items were on sale at the Academy kiosk, but not many fans seemed to be buying. Presumably, few cared to make such a substantive declaration.

Bowie's famous stock in trade is, or used to be, a knack for reinventing himself when his image bored him. He has tackled his current guise with great avidity. Trouble is, as evinced by Sunday's Brixton show, the role of Heavy Metal Star does not become him. He followed the heavy metal

dress code: bare chested and tight trousered. He struck the requisite heroic postures. But he was unmistakably David Bowie toying with a new incarnation and this divested the music of authenticity.

His ready voice lacked the histrionic power so necessary for convincing heavy rock. Songs like "Under the God" (Bowie bravely stuck solely to Tin Machine material) inspired bouts of rehearsal-room thrash, Bowie, who is cut out for finer things, was simply lost in the muddle.

The other members of Tin Machine, though, were clearly the genre bunnies. Conist Reeves Gahrels played squallid riffs that could easily have graced any Led Zeppelin album. Drummer Hunt Sales's exhortations that we "Say yeah!" were prime rock cliché. As Bowie has proclaimed Tin Machine a democracy, each member got his turn in the spotlight. But Sales's "blues" vocal on "Stateside" was an excellent argument for establishing a monarchy, or at least a meritocracy. Bowie's justification for Tin Machine is summarised in one of the song's lines, "You belong in rock 'n' roll and so do I." Perhaps it might have been true 20 years ago.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

JOHN PERCIVAL
Arts feature, page 11

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE FISHER KING** (15): Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams as two lost souls, from the myths of time up against modern adversity. Wayward overblown Terry Gilliam film with deadpan comedy. Cannon Channel (071 332 5266).
Odeon: Kensington (0426 914668).
Lester Square (0181 919883).
Whitely (071 732 3332).

◆ **THE FOUR FEATHERS** (U): Comedy, any other redemption in the Sudan. Korda's glorious 1939 version of A.E.W. Mason's classic imperial novel. Starring John Clements, Ralph Richardson, June Duprez. Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (071 438 8611).

◆ **SHATTERED** (15): Amnesia, murder and psycho surgery in the San Francisco zone. Should be fun, but director Wolfgang Peterson plays it hard-boiled. With Tom Berenger, Greta Scacchi, Bob Odenkirk. Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (071 438 8611).

◆ **BOY IN THE HOOD** (15): Black urban drama from the first director John Singleton, plot high with tension, but all too much. With Laurence Fishburne, Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr. Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (071 438 8611).

◆ **CITY SLICKERS** (12): Overstretched sentimental comedy, with Billy Crystal and chums solving mid-life crises during a cattle trek. Starring Daniel Stern, Bruno Kirby, Helen Slater. Director, Ron Underwood. Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (071 438 8611).

◆ **BECKETT**: Riveting performance from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Henry II and the archbishop. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071 930 8801). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **THE COUP**: Norman Bates as a deposed president in a political thriller. Quirky story of a presidential election. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SW1 (071 930 8801). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **DEATH AND THE MAIDEN**: John Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in a thriller. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SW1 (071 930 8801). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY**: Wonderful trip through France and Ireland. Billy Connolly and John Cleese. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SW1 (071 930 8801). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **THE HUNTING OF THE SHARK**: Good things in this vast, elaborate spectacular but the story is a needle in a haystack. Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071 734 8951). Mon-Sat, 8pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **IT'S RALPH**: Timothy West, Jack Shepherd, Corne Boon and a host of other comedians. Comedy, Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071 734 8951). Mon-Sat, 8pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**: Jason Donovan sports a golden glow for the quip, bash and razzle. Palladium, Arch St, W1 (071 438 8611). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **KVETCH**: Steven Berkoff's trip into the East-End Jewish psyche. With David Hare, David Hare, David Hare, David Hare. Comedy, Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071 734 8951). Mon-Sat, 8pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**: Roger Alton and Susan Flannery. Comedy, Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071 734 8951). Mon-Sat, 8pm. main Wed, 5pm. 10pm.

◆ **ROYAL OPERA**: Following the debut of Les Huguenots, a collective breath is held that this new production by John Neschke and conducted by John Neschke, conducted by Sir George Solti with Dame Kiri Kanawa, will restore Covent Garden's fortunes. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071 246 1011). 7.30pm.

◆ **JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**: Mezzosoprano conducts works by Ben-Haim (Psalms), Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto), and Brahms (Symphony No. 2). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071 246 1011). 7.30pm.

◆ **THE PHILHARMONIC**: Neeme Karjalainen conducts works by Shostakovich (Ballet Suite No. 2), Schumann (Piano Concerto), and Rachmaninov (Capriccio on the Approach of a Storm). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071 246 1011). 7.30pm.

◆ **WELSH NATIONAL OPERA**: The company's new staging of Mozart's

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London (where indicated with the symbol \otimes) on release across the country.

◆ **THE COMMITMENTS** (15): Hard-boiled blues play with a soul band. Fresh, funny and buoyant. Played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (071 438 8611).

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◆ **DEKALOG PARTS 7 AND 8** (PG): Quirky riffs in the classic of an anguished mother and an ethics professor. Involves tales from Krzysztof Kieslowski's "Ten Commandments". Kino, 100 Tottenham Court Road (071 438 8611).

◆ **EDWARD II** (15): Rousing retelling of a medieval play by Derek Jarman. With Ian McKellen, Simon Ward and others. Andrew Tice as a star-crossed royal lover. Tilda Swinton as the exasperated Queen. Curzon West End (071 438 8611). Gate (071 727 4043).

◆ **FLIRTING** (12): Steps to maturity at segregated African boarding schools in the 1950s. Directed by the late M. Nkomo. With John Dugan. With John Dugan. Director, John Dugan. Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (071 438 8611).

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20
FOWLER'S POSITION
(a) The position in which a patient is placed to facilitate natural drainage. An epitaph of George R. Fowler, of New York, surgeon, 1848-1906.

RUPERT'S DROP
(b) Tadpole-shaped beads formed when molten glass is dropped into water. When the tail is broken, the whole bead disintegrates violently. Supposedly introduced into England by Prince Rupert of the Rhine (1619-82).

PETER SEE-ME
(c) A Spanish wine made from a grape introduced by Pedro Ximenes, popular in England in the 17th century. "The Pedro Ximenes" was planted on the Rhine, whence about two centuries ago one Peter Simon brought it to Malaga.

MORTON'S FORK
(d) Cardinal and Archbishop John Morton's cunning way of raising taxes for Henry VII, two-pronged. If you were ostentatiously rich, you could obviously afford a benefice. If you lived quietly, you must have been a pauper. My lord Archbishop what a cant you are.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CINEMAS
CURZON WEST END
100/101 Strand, W1
11.30, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THEATRES
ADELPHI 071 330 7011
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

ME AND MY GIRL
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE HAPPIEST SHOW
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

OPERA & BALLET
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 246 1011
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE ROYAL OPERA
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE ROYAL BALLET
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE ROYAL BALLET
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE ROYAL BALLET
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE ROYAL BALLET
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

THE ROYAL BALLET
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Today's problem is from the game Feghnam - Olvera, Leipzig 1960. White to play and win.

SAUCY COMEDY
Non-Film Word Mat 3pm.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS
1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30

BBC 1

- 6.00 Cerebus**
6.30 Breakfast News beginning with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins.
9.05 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Killy chairs a studio discussion on whether we should intervene in the civil war in Yugoslavia. **9.50 Hot Chefs**, Bruno Lobet prepares trout and cabbage parcels with almond butter.
10.00 News, regional news and weather. **10.05 Playdays**, For the very young (r) **10.25 Rupert the Bear**, Ray Brooks narrates another adventure about the hero of Nutwood and his chums (r) **10.35 The Cheetah Show** presented by Jeff Banks, Selina Scott and Caryn Franklin. Includes Dawn French modelling her collection for women with a fuller figure (r).
11.00 News, regional news and weather. **11.05 No Kidding**, Family quiz game show hosted by Mike Smith and Kate Coppack (s) **11.30 People Today** presented by Miriam Stoppard and Mairi Maciver. Includes *Survive*, regional news and weather at 12.00.
12.20 Pebble Mill, Among Judi Sopers' guest is the young deaf percussionist Evelyn Glennie. **12.55 Regional news** and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather.
1.30 Neighbours, (CeeFax) (s) **1.50 Going for Gold**, The equine Henry Kelly presents another round of his European general knowledge quiz game.
2.15 Film: The Children of An Lac (1980) starring Shirley Jones, Ina Balin and Beulah Quo. The true story of the efforts of two American women to evacuate 215 Vietnamese orphans just before the fall of Saigon in 1975. Directed by John Llewellyn Moxey.
3.50 Bodger and Badger, Episodes seven of the 12-part children's school comedy series. With Andy Cunningham and Lila Kaye (s) **4.05 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse**, Cartoon (r) **4.20 Wait on Earth**, Episode two of a 12-part science fiction comedy series. **4.35 New Times**, Children's history series. This week, a visit to Kirtley Hall, Northamptonshire, to contrast the life of an Elizabethan knight's daughter with that of a gardener's son.
5.00 Grange Hill, Episode 16 of the 20-part children's drama set in a school (r). (CeeFax) (s).
5.35 Neighbours (r) (CeeFax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster. **6.00 News** with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.
6.30 Regional News magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours.
7.00 Every Second Counts, Quiz game show for couples (s).
7.30 EastEnders, (CeeFax) (s).
8.00 The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin, David Nobbs's classic comedy adapted from his novel. This week Reggie's brother-in-law is made redundant from the army and inadvertently gives Reggie an idea that will transform his life. Starring Leonard Rossiter, Pauline Yates and Geoffrey Palmer (r). (CeeFax).
8.30 A Question of Sport presented by David Coleman. This week the team captains, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham, are joined by Ian Wright, Alan Murray, Alec Stewart and the new England captain, Michael Atherton. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather.
9.30 Making Out, The final episode of Debbie Horsfield's entertaining comedy drama following the fortunes of the women who work in a northern electronics factory. Tonight the factory workforce take part in a local Latin-American dance competition which affords the chance of former footballer Tommy Docherty to make a guest appearance. (CeeFax) (s) Wales: *Week in Week Out* 10.00 *Making Out*.
10.25 Film 91 with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed this week are *What About Bob*, *Other People's Money* and *City of Hope*. Northern Ireland: Open House.
10.55 Neil Sedaka in Concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. Northern Ireland: 11.05 Film 91 11.35-12.25am Neil Sedaka; Wales: 11.45-12.15am Film 91.
11.45 Weather



Sporting opponents: Ian Wright and Zara Long (8.30pm)

BBC 2

- 8.00 Breakfast News**
8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on 2, Quizzes Minutes 9.15 Leneaxpress 9.30 Diez Temas 9.45 You and Me 10.00 Being Tidy 10.15 Look and Read 10.35 Q and A (s) **10.40 Design and Technology** 11.00 Hot and Cold food 11.15 English Express 11.35 Science Challenge (s) 11.55 Caribbean music (s) **12.15 Sport and Think** - Justice 12.35 The Global Environment 12.55 A Way With Numbers 1.20 Births 1.35 Crystal Tips and Alkaline 1.40 A World of Plastics.
2.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me*. For four and five-year-olds (r) **2.15 The Craftsman**, Philip Ledger, musical director of the Aldeburgh Festival, and tuner Malcolm Pringle illustrate the skills of a harpsichord maker (r) **2.30 See Hear Magazine** series for the hearing impaired (r).
3.00 News and weather followed by *Westminster Live*, including prime minister's question time. **3.50 News**, regional news and weather. **4.00 Catchword**, Quiz hosted by Paul Cole.
4.30 Trivial Pursuit, Game show based on the popular board game, presented by Rory McGrath (r). (CeeFax).
5.00 Behind the Headlines, Robert Robinson and Loyd Grossman examine modern lifestyles with novelist Deborah Moggach and journalist Chrissy Levy.
5.30 The Victoria Flower Garden, Includes Peter Thoday at an antique theatre at Abbey Abbey (r). (CeeFax) (s).
6.00 Film: Marco 7 (1987) starring Gene Barry, Cyd Charisse and Delmonio Elliott. Complex tale of cross and double cross about the editor of a fashion magazine who moonlights as a jewel thief and becomes involved in something more sinister while on a fashion shoot in Morocco. Directed by Gerry O'Hara.
7.30 Animation Now, *Parade*, Ishu Patel's short about a crow's efforts to become a bird of paradise.
7.45 Assignment: Lost Cause, George Alagiah reports from Chicago on the emergence of an influential black conservative movement and assesses whether this heralds the Civil Rights Movement.
8.30 Food and Drink, Paul Heiney investigates whether breeding issues in animals means that Britons are eating out on the results of real meat; Michael Barry prepares lamb curry; and there is a look at the quality of ready-made curry pastes.
9.00 Quantum Leap, Science fiction comedy series starring Scott Bakula as a time-travelled scientist. (CeeFax) (s).



Crossing the black and white divide: John Akomfrah (9.50pm)

- 9.50 Think of England: A Touch of the Tar Bush**
 ● CHOICE: The black film-maker John Akomfrah explores what it means to be English when your skin is not white. He takes his cue from the novelist J. B. Priestley, who during a famous 1930s journey through England stopped off at a school in Liverpool and was struck by a large number of children of mixed race. "A really first rate producer", Priestley wrote, "could make a film of exceptional interest, probably of real beauty, out of these children." Nearly half a century on, Akomfrah takes up the challenge. He goes to the community that Priestley visited, talks to several generations of mixed race families and argues that they represent an authentic English culture that white England has tried to deny. Akomfrah is best known for *Handsworth Song*, a passionate attack on racism in the Midlands. *A Touch of the Tar Bush* is more measured and reflective but the point emerges just as strongly.
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman.
11.15 The Late Show, Gorge Vidal talks about sex and politics in Bush's America (s).
11.55 Behind the Headlines, A repeat of the programme shown at 5.00.
12.25 Weather

BBC 3

- 6.00 TV-am**
8.25 Jeopardy! Steve Jones provides the answers; the contestants have to work out the questions in this back-to-front quiz game. **9.55 Thames News** and weather.
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject (s).
10.40 This Morning, Magazine series on family matters presented this week by Derek Jenson and his wife Ellen.
12.10 Rod, Jane and Freddy, For the very young. Today's theme is colour (r).
12.30 News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather. **1.10 Thames News** and weather.
1.20 Home and Away, Australian family drama. (Oracle) **1.50 A Country Practice**, Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s).
2.30 Take the High Road, Drama series set in the Highlands. **2.50 Talkabout**, Word game show hosted by Andrew O'Connor.
3.15 ITN News headlines. **3.20 Thames News** headlines. **3.25 Families**, Drama series linking the north of England with Australia.
3.55 Rupert, Animated adventures of the young bear (s) **4.20 Hot Dog**, Puppet series. **4.30 Cartoon** starring Porly Pig. **4.40 Children's Ward**, Medical drama series set in a large general hospital. (Oracle) (s).
5.10 Blockbusters, General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness.
5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather.
5.55 Thames Help, Jackie Sprockley on comes donors.
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle).
6.30 Thames News, (Oracle).
6.55 Blockbusters, Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle).
7.30 Thames Reports, In *Banding Together* Carole Peters reports on how householders in London and the south-east will lose out with the government's new council tax; *Hammerhead* Hiff examines the expansion of the McDonald's fast food chain which has now managed to obtain permission to open in Hong Kong.
8.00 The Bill: The Tasse, Sergeant Maitland has an unpleasant encounter with a young woman carrying a dangerous weapon; and PC Smollett suspects a driver of stealing an expensive and flashy car. (Oracle).
8.30 The Upper Hand, Comedy series starring Joe McGann as the male housekeeper of a businesswoman with an amorous mother. With Diane Weston and Honor Blackman.
9.00 Boon, Comedy drama starring Michael Elphick as Ken Boon, a glib private investigator this week coming to the assistance of a pretty solicitor who is being hounded by the tabloid press. With Bill Nighy who recently starred in BBC 2's *The Man's Room*. (Oracle).
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle).
10.30 The Evening Standard Drama Awards, The Princess of Wales is guest of honour at the Savoy hotel in London for the long established stage awards. The compere is Ned Sherrin.
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H, Drama series set in an Australian women's detention centre.
12.30 Videoview, Mariella Frostrup reviews the latest video releases.
1.00 The Equalizer, McCall is worried when a killer pins the Equalizer's newspaper advertisement on his victim's bodies. Starring Edward Woodward (r).
2.00 Donahue, Tonight's guests are Hollywood producer Julia Phillips, Alan Bates, Robert Gil and Su Parrot prepare bacon and eggs.
3.00 60 Minutes, Award-winning American news magazine.
4.00 Entertainment UK, A guide to Britain's entertainment scene.
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00.



Happy families: Weston, McGann and Blackman (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Upper Hand**, Comedy series starring Joe McGann as the male housekeeper of a businesswoman with an amorous mother. With Diane Weston and Honor Blackman.
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4.00 Entertainment UK, A guide to Britain's entertainment scene.
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00.

BBC 4

- 6.00 The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools**
12.00 The Parliament Programme, The latest news from both Houses presented by Nicholas Owen. The reports by Nicholas Woolley.
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susanrah Simons.
1.00 Sesame Street, Pre-school learning series.
2.00 Film: Sky Murder (1940), b/w starring Walter Pidgeon. Lively second world war drama about a private detective who is called in by a United States senator to investigate a beautiful European heiress from the clutches of fifth columnists. Directed by George S. Selig.
3.20 Film: Under Night Stars (1958), b/w. A British film about the people who work through the night to check, clean and repair London's underground rail network. This week's programme for the over-55s features a report on an American theatre group that aims to represent the interests of the older generation in an original and vibrant way. (Teletext).
4.30 Fifteen-to-One, Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s).
5.00 If We Were Horses, The third of six programmes about children's relationship with horses (s).
5.30 Same Differences, Topical magazine on disability matters.
6.00 My Two Dads, American comedy series about two fathers who inherit a 12-year-old girl (r).
6.30 Happy Days, More American comedy starring Henry Winkler as the super-cool Fonzy.
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather.
7.50 Comment
8.00 The Black Bag: Township Generals.
 ● CHOICE: The current affairs series reflecting black and Asian issues reports on the young blacks of the South African townships who organised themselves into units to defy the police and army during the states of emergency of the 1980s. It recalls the best of the 'young generals', Stompie Moekhe, who organised 1,000 people under the age of 14 to demonstrate against police harassment in the eastern Transvaal. Stompie, the child warrior, was murdered before his fifteenth birthday. But the film's main focus is on the young blacks today. The message is that despite the dismantling of apartheid, life has changed. The townships still offer little hope. Their young inhabitants are still confronted by army patrols. The fight for democracy and non-racism goes on and if current negotiations on South Africa's political future fail, the young generals have pledged a return to arms.
8.30 Down to Earth presented by Dr Catherine Hills. How neolithic and bronze age people dedicated 15 square miles of countryside in Dorset's Cranborne Chase to venerating their dead.



Depicting black sexuality in the cinema: Spike Lee (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Without Walls: I Want Your Sex**.
 ● CHOICE: Yaba Badoe's ambitious documentary shows how white artists, writers, film-makers and photographers have perpetuated a myth about the hypersexuality of black people. The process goes back at least to the early 19th century when a deformed black girl dubbed the Hottentot Venus was put on public display for the perverse curiosity of Parisians. Badoe draws from examples from Manet's painting *Olympia*, Rider Haggard's *She* and the exotic dancer Josephine Baker. The programme is particularly shrewd on the treatment of black sexuality in the cinema, from Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* to Eddie Murphy and Spike Lee. If there is a fault it is that Badoe has tried to pack too much in. There is also too much structuralist jargon that will make sense only to the initiated. This is not to deny the importance of the theme or Badoe's bold attempt to tackle it.
10.00 Film: Justice Denied (1983) starring Gill Merasty and Thomas Peskoczek. A made-for-television, real-life drama about the 11-year struggle of a Canadian Inuit to prove his innocence of slaying to death his black teenage friend in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 1971. Directed by Paul Cowan.
11.50 Empty Nest, American comedy starring Richard Mulligan (s).
12.25am White and the Love Unlimited Orchestra, Soul singer Barry White in concert at the Zenith in Paris on New Year's Eve, 1980.
1.20 Black UK, American documentary on how the British invasion of the late 1960s and early 1970s revitalised the American music scene (r). Ends at 2.10.

TV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 *Anglo News* 7.30-8.00 *Food Guide*.
BORDER
 As London except: 1.50pm *The Young Doctors* 2.20-2.50 *Sons and Daughters* 3.00-3.30 *Blockbusters* 3.30-4.00 *Blockbusters* 4.00-4.30 *Blockbusters* 4.30-5.00 *Blockbusters* 5.00-5.30 *Blockbusters* 5.30-6.00 *Blockbusters* 6.00-6.30 *Blockbusters* 6.30-7.00 *Blockbusters* 7.00-7.30 *Blockbusters* 7.30-8.00 *Blockbusters* 8.00-8.30 *Blockbusters* 8.30-9.00 *Blockbusters* 9.00-9.30 *Blockbusters* 9.30-10.00 *Blockbusters* 10.00-10.30 *Blockbusters* 10.30-11.00 *Blockbusters* 11.00-11.30 *Blockbusters* 11.30-12.00 *Blockbusters* 12.00-12.30 *Blockbusters* 12.30-1.00 *Blockbusters* 1.00-1.30 *Blockbusters* 1.30-2.00 *Blockbusters* 2.00-2.30 *Blockbusters* 2.30-3.00 *Blockbusters* 3.00-3.30 *Blockbusters* 3.30-4.00 *Blockbusters* 4.00-4.30 *Blockbusters* 4.30-5.00 *Blockbusters* 5.00-5.30 *Blockbusters* 5.30-6.00 *Blockbusters* 6.00-6.30 *Blockbusters* 6.30-7.00 *Blockbusters* 7.00-7.30 *Blockbusters* 7.30-8.00 *Blockbusters* 8.00-8.30 *Blockbusters* 8.30-9.00 *Blockbusters* 9.00-9.30 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Tobacco adverts given a reprieve by EC

By JILL SHERMAN
AND TOM WALKER

TOBACCO advertising was reprieved yesterday when European Community health ministers put off a decision on whether to impose a total ban. Ministers found themselves divided on the controversial issue and were unable to reach a decision.

The topic will be considered again in May, but yesterday there appeared to have been no fundamental shifts in opinion, with Germany, Britain and The Netherlands still blocking the Commission's proposed ban. Together they could prevent further action.

The EC did agree to ban oral snuff and to extend tough health warnings on cigarettes to all tobacco products. Oral snuff, already banned in Ireland and Belgium, will be outlawed across the EC from January 1, 1992.

Cigarettes sold in the EC from next year will have to carry warnings clearly stating a link between smoking, cancer and heart disease, and a further optional warning about smoking harming others and diminishing fitness. The cancer and heart-disease warnings will be carried by rolling tobacco from 1992 and extended to other tobacco products from 1994.

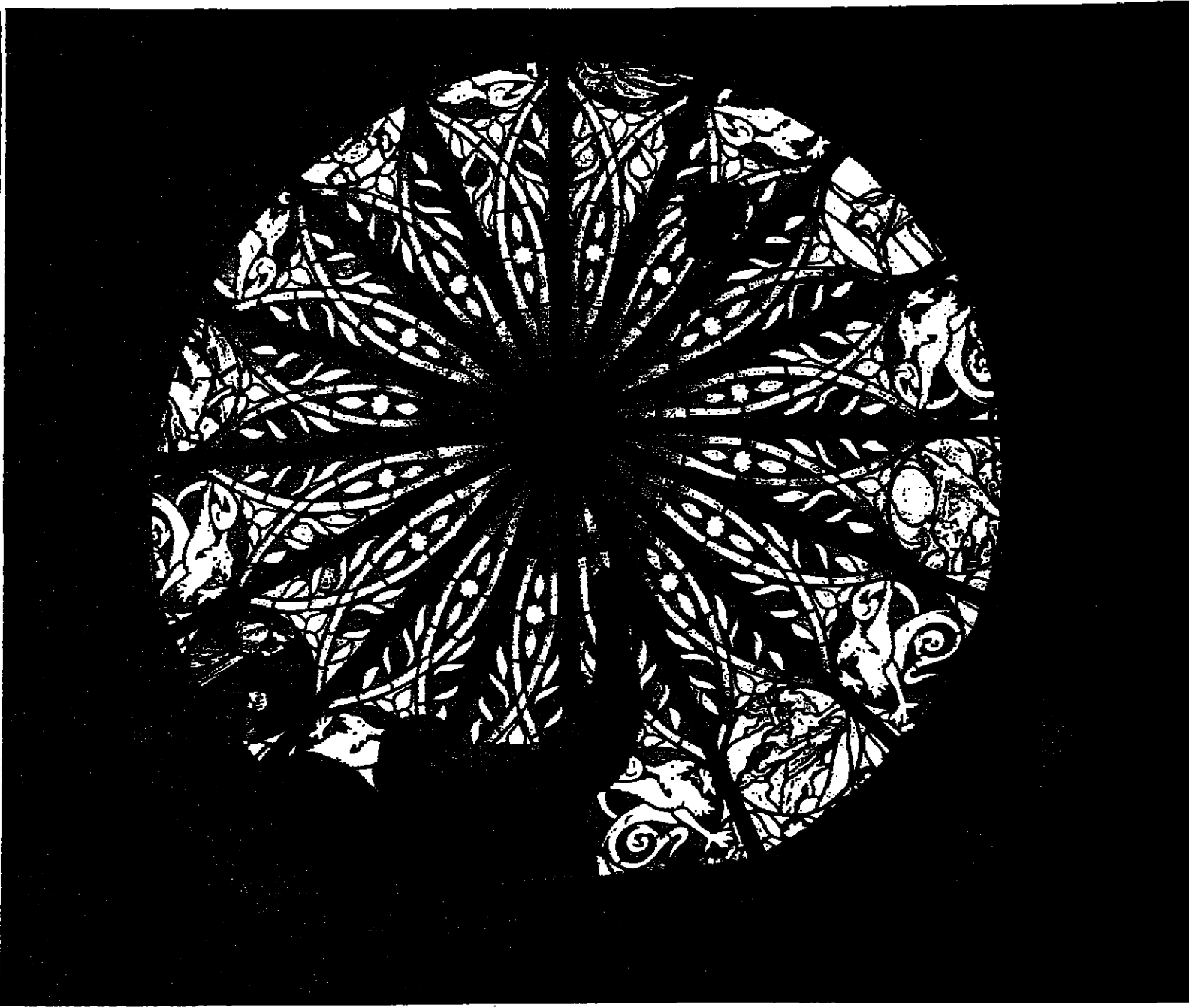
Anti-smoking organisations and the medical profession argue that the government's stand on advertising directly contradicts its green paper, the Health of the Nation, which calls for a big reduction in smoking. They claim that following recent evidence that children are influenced by tobacco advertising, the government will be under enormous pressure to change tack.

The government has so far maintained that statistics show a bigger drop in smoking in Britain than in Italy, where a total ban already exists.

A statement issued by Lady Hooper, junior health minister, said that the UK supported the second labelling directive, and the ban on oral snuff.

The British Medical Association last night welcomed the opportunity "to think again about the government's illogical opposition to the draft directive". The Coronary Prevention Group was delighted about the oral snuff ban.

Leading article, page 15
Letters, page 15



Dressing up: the new stained-glass dome over the dress and upper circles of the London Coliseum, gets a dusting. The dome is made of 1,800 pieces of glass and more than 200 yards of lead in 16 panels representing scenes based on Wagner's *Ring Cycle* by Arthur Rackham

Russian MPs reject Yeltsin emergency

Continued from page 1

who regard him as a hot-headed demagogue.

Mr Yeltsin — who did not attend the special sitting of parliament and has so far made no comment on its decision — salvaged only one fragment from the wreckage of his original decree. A clause inserted at the last moment by one of his most loyal allies, Sergei Shakhrai, sanctioned restrictions on traffic into and out of Chechnya-Ingushetia, in order to curb the import of arms.

Afterwards some deputies expressed fears that the measure could be used to control movements generally and might facilitate an economic blockade.

Tension in the region fell sharply yesterday. Russian interior ministry troops who had been flown to the capital.

Grozny, were withdrawn, demonstrators started to return to their villages, and traffic on the North Caucasus railway system was slowly returning to normal.

As the final vote was taken in the Russian parliament, the 100 or so Chechen demonstrators outside, including several wearing the traditional black astrakhan fur hats and cloaks and leading horses, lowered their bright green flags, turned towards Mecca and chanted their midday prayers.

While the Russian parliament's decision may have defused the immediate crisis in Chechnya-Ingushetia, the political crisis in the Russian Federation was only beginning, as parliamentary deputies considered the implications of what had happened.

Major warns Tory rebels

Continued from page 1

rency. He added: "When that moment comes we shall need to weigh carefully the issues raised by a single currency of sovereignty and accountability against the potential impact on our influence and prosperity were we to take a different decision from our principal European competitors."

Mr Major said that while a single currency without greater convergence of EC economies would be a "catastrophe" and while it would be wrong for Britain to decide now to join, it would be equally wrong to decide now that in no circumstances would we ever do so.

He was thus taking on the Conservative rebels led by Norman Tebbit, who say that there is no point in signing up to a treaty at Maastricht if we are not in favour of a single currency. Mr Tebbit said yes-

terday: "It is not only folly for us to go down that road. It is folly for them too."

Ministers are growing nervous that a rebellion on the Maastricht terms could amount to more than just the handful of MPs predicted at the outset of negotiations. A Times study of previous votes on European Community matters shows that there are at least 25 Conservative MPs who have defied the party whip on at least one previous vote on EC affairs, and 33 members (including another fifteen MPs) of the anti-federalist European Reform Group.

Mr Major, clearly encouraged by his talks on Sunday with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said last night that an agreement at Maastricht was in Britain's interests. "I believe that the basis for an agreement can be found. But it has to be an

agreement which all 12 member states accept. That will require give and take on all sides."

Britain could sign a treaty at Maastricht which would be an important stage on the road to "ever closer union among the peoples of Europe", a careful reminder to Tory doubters of the commitment in the Single European Act pushed through under Margaret Thatcher.

He said, however, that there were "still huge problems in working for an agreement on political union" and outlined a number of sticking points. Mr Major also said "We should not be afraid to say 'no' to the general clamour for wide-ranging extensions of Community competence. The Community should not interpose itself in areas best dealt with at national level."

Succeeding in Europe, page 14

Political sketch

Goldilocks in a deckhands' trap

THEY speak of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object, but yesterday afternoon parliament witnessed the irresistible salesman unveiling the unsaleable object. Michael Heseltine outlined his "council tax" bill. Not for this government the Trade Descriptions Act and seven-day cooling off period.

Flaxen mane freshly swept back, as though he had spent the weekend in an inspirational Tory wind-tunnel, it seems that everybody on Mr Heseltine's team, too, is frog-marched to a West End hair-stylist: for the environment secretary was flanked by his lieutenant, Michael Portillo. And the ambitious young junior has had something quite extraordinary done to his hair.

It is impossible to do justice, with mere words, to the sheer drama of Mr Portillo's hair. From a point about four-and-a-half inches above the leading edge of his right eyebrow, the whole coiffe appears to boil violently, hair streaming outwards in all directions as though an unseen cherub were blowing furiously down on him from the "top left hand corner of the frame". Watching the top of Mr Portillo's head, the onlooker is put in mind of the surface of the Red Sea as the Almighty began to part the waves, but just before the Israelites were able to march through. It is breathtaking. If a piece of dodgy legislation can be sold by the efforts of hairdressing alone, then the council tax would be home, and blown, and dry.

But is it? Opposition yesterday was meagre, though shrill.

There was the environment secretary's Labour shadow, Bryan Gould. He faced Mr Heseltine as a Goldilocks might confront a Goldilocks — his face a picture of horror mixed with wonder. Also on the Labour front bench sat Gould's own lieutenants: the sombre Paul Murphy, the assiduous David Blunkett and the moralising Barry Jones. Goldilocks and the Three Bares.

In abolishing the poll tax Goldilocks has stolen some of the Bares' porridge and rumpled their beds. Only some twenty were there for the opening speech — a disappointing audience, as Mr Heseltine pointed out, for the alleged end of civilisation as we know it.

But if the onslaught from the benches before him

lacked punch, Heseltine suddenly ran into an ambush from the benches behind.

He had started to explain to us how the nation would benefit. But, a few lines into this argument, up leapt Sir Rhodes Boyson (C, Brent N). The bushy-chopped Sir Rhodes seemed unconvinced that his Brent constituents would be among the winners.

Mr Heseltine larded his colleague with praise, and pressed on. Up jumped John Marshall (C, Hendon N). The super-loyal Mr Marshall will be on the burning deck when even the government whips have put to sea on lifeboats, so a Marshall rebellion is a serious matter. Marshall explained how all but 1 percent of his constituents might suffer. Mr Heseltine pressed on.

So far, the whole nation minus Brent and Hendon were still with us. But, now, up jumped Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster). If Mr Marshall were simply standing on the burning deck, Dame Elaine would be leaping loyally into the nearest flames. A back-sliding Kellett-Bowman is trouble indeed. "People in big, big houses," she complained, "estate-workers, fire-workers, cleaners..." would not benefit from this bill. To Brent and Hendon, these are now added the woodmen, clergy and peasantry of Lancaster.

And to this growing army of resignation was added, moments later, "school-teachers, civil servants, police officers and nurses" in the South East: an aggrieved Dr Michael Clark (C, Rochford) interrupted to testify to that.

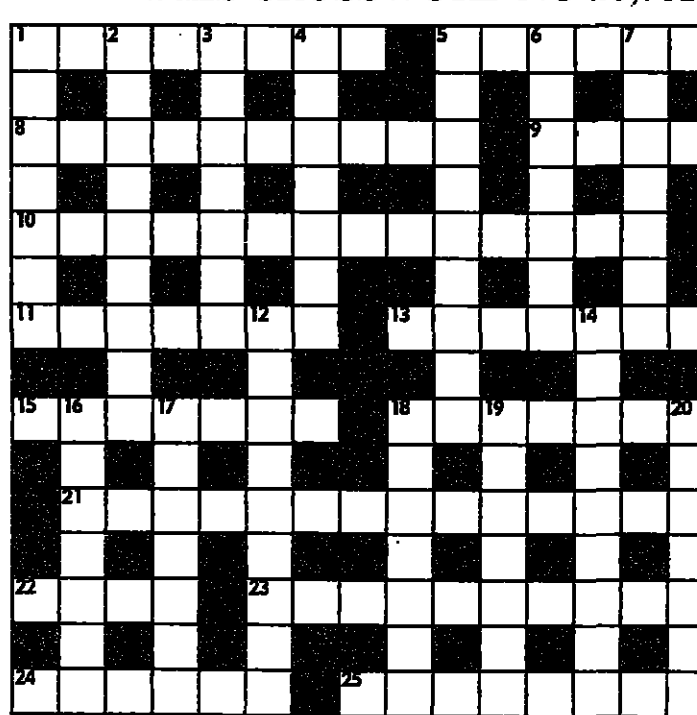
Poor Mr Heseltine ploughed on his explanation of the new tax's operation increasingly impervious. Up jumped Ralph Howell (C, Norfolk N). This ancient but by no means extinct volcano last erupted with the suggestion that, in place of a local tax, VAT could simply be increased. He was laughed to scorn. Then the government increased VAT by two-and-a-half percent and halved poll tax.

Very not, he asked yesterday, increase VAT by a further two-and-a-half percent, and end "this wretched tax" for good? "Knock it on the head," rumbled the East Anglian sage.

How ridiculous! Everyone laughed. Mr Howell's argument had a terrible logic.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,761



ACROSS

- 1 Take audible steps to strike the ball (3-5).
- 5 Flask depicted by artist in restaurant (6).
- 8 Running through snow, animals will go quickly (4,6).
- 9 Talking in spite of warning (4).
- 10 In a word, a rum collection of peers (5,3,6).
- 11 Having no prospects, cleric imbibes English port (4-3).
- 13 Repairman adopts a course by no means direct (7).
- 15 A sign that pegs are damaged (7).
- 18 Points amassed by ascetic sect (7).
- 21 Campanologists will introduce some variety (4,3,7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,760



DOWN

- 2 You can hear birds brood (4).
- 3 It's fashionable being rational about silver (3,3,4).
- 4 Overcharge for wool (6).
- 5 A disciple here and there is converted (8).
- 6 Little Mary showed signs of injury, having fallen (7).
- 7 Punch the right clock — it gives nothing away (5-4).
- 8 Motley attires a jester, perhaps (7).
- 9 Bound to take tea with one man (7).
- 10 They accompany dancers to fish on Sunday (9).
- 11 Collar chap who's a villain (7).
- 12 Anticipate payment for receiving minerals (7).
- 13 A terrifying experience when man's brought before chief of ruler, they say (9).
- 14 Run down gradient out of control, stumble at the end (9).
- 15 Whale displaying some character or quality (7).
- 16 After a note that's not counterfeiter (7).
- 17 Formerly called wild (7).
- 18 I am as baffled as a foreigner (7).
- 19 American president accepted by party? It's doubtful (7).

Concise crossword, page 17

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

FOWLERS POSITION

- a. An attitude in bed
- b. A chess gambit
- c. Down on one knee

RUPERT'S DROP

- a. An equestrian evolution
- b. A bit of glass
- c. Scientific execution

PETER-SEE-NE

- a. A sneek or tell-tale
- b. A children's game
- c. A drink

MORTON'S FORK

- a. A medieval torture
- b. A deformity of the hips
- c. A fiscal imposition

Answers on page 18, column

AA ROADWATCH

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London & SE

- C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
- M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
- M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
- M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
- M25 London Orbital only 735
- National 736

National motorways

- West Country 738
- Wales 739
- Midlands 740
- East Anglia 741
- North-west England 742
- North-east England 743
- Scotland 744
- Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Sunday's figures are latest available

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WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have heavy rain at first but brighter, showery weather will spread from the West. Wales and the north and west of England will start cloudy with heavy rain spreading from the West but becoming brighter with blustery showers. A dry start in southern and eastern England but becoming cloudier with rain later. Outlook: windy with blustery showers and sunny spells.

By Philip Howard

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TOURIST RATES

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- North-east England 743
- Scotland 744
- Northern Ireland 74

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12 1991

TODAY IN BUSINESS

BELL TOLLS



The Latent Bell at Lloyd's of London is mourning a large withdrawal of members and the shattering of the market's almost mythical world status. **Page 25**

PAY BACK

September saw the biggest net repayment of credit since 1986 and retail sales in September rose only 0.3 per cent. The Treasury said the figures pointed to a slow recovery. **Page 22**

COALITION



John Wakeham, the energy secretary, is inviting the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to talk about the future of a privatised coal industry. **Page 22**

FINED

Investco MIM, the investment management company, has been fined £75,000 managers for ten breaches of rules for administering personal equity plans. **Page 23**

TARNISHED



Estimates of Ratner's profits have been cut sharply by stockbrokers concerned about the current performance of Gerald Ratner's jewellery group. **Market report, page 24**

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7685 (-0.0010)
German mark 2.9039 (+0.0002)
Exchange index 91.2 (same)
Bank of England official close 14p

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1972.0 (-3.5)
FT-SE 100 2554.9 (-4.1)
New York Dow Jones 3043.16 (-2.45)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2432.99 (-253.50)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month sterling bill 9%
US Prime Rate 7%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury Bill 6.24%
20-year bonds 12 1/8%

CURRENCIES

London Bank Rate 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month sterling bill 9%
US Prime Rate 7%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury Bill 6.24%
20-year bonds 12 1/8%

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$354.90
PM \$354.90
Close \$354.90
New York:
Comex \$355.85-356.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$21.50 bid (\$21.80)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 134.6 September 1991-100
+ denotes monthly trading price
+ denotes Friday's close
market closed Monday

Big energy users seek enquiry and break-up of generators

By ROSS TIEMAN

BRITAIN'S biggest energy users have written to Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, suggesting a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into power generation and the break-up of National Power and PowerGen, the two biggest generators. The Major Energy Users Council is "convinced that a truly competitive energy market cannot exist in the present form". It adds: "We suspect, and our views are echoed by many independent analysts, that the pool is open to manipulation by the two major players, National Power and PowerGen, and to a lesser extent, by Nuclear Electric." The council's case is

supported by Peter Rost, Conservative MP for Erewash, who is a member of the Commons energy select committee. The move comes amid growing concern over the steep rises in prices for electricity in the pool, a spot-market that is the cornerstone of Britain's privatisation structure.

Stephen Littlechild, the director-general of electricity supply, is investigating pool prices. The council said it feared that Offer, the Office of Electricity Supply, would be "unable to provide the revisions we seek as quickly as we feel they are required".

Widespread fears were expressed before privatisation of the two dominant generators in February that the sale structure was unsatisfactory. The government's

determination to achieve a speedy sale, however, caused it to snub pleas to break up the former state-owned Central Electricity Generating Board into smaller units before flotation.

Members of the council, which includes some of Britain's leading industrial companies, among them Imperial Chemical Industries, have been hit by higher electricity costs. Last year, pool prices were well below the level expected at the time of privatisation, but between April and September this year, prices were 25 per cent higher, the council said. In the first 23 days of October, the council calculated the increase at 33 per cent. In addition, the charges levied by National Grid for

distributing power had risen by almost 16 per cent, while the regional electricity companies had increased by between 15 and 20 per cent, and the levy to support the nuclear industry had gone up from 10.6 to 11 per cent.

The generating companies have argued that pool prices are higher because they have shut down their oldest, least efficient plants to reduce capacity. The council has proposed five specific remedies to Mr Lilley in addition to a monopolies reference and the break-up of the two big generators. He should urge John Wakeham, the energy secretary, to remove the inflation-linked controls on prices for power transmission, while the energy

department should link prices charged to the biggest customers to the cost of imported coal, review the pool rules to prevent manipulation, increase the powers of Offer and halt capacity cutbacks.

National Power reacted angrily. "The reason these large users are feeling hurt is that they had a special deal which gave them very low prices which has come to an end with privatisation. The privatised generators cannot provide those prices without cross subsidy, and that would be unacceptable to the rest of our customers," said a spokesman. Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, agreed, adding: "We do not believe that an MMC reference is remotely warranted."

British Steel interim profit melts to £19m

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Steel has given warning that it may cut its year-end dividend after pre-tax profits for the half year to end-September fell from £307 million to £19 million.

Analysts predict that British Steel will lose up to £50 million this year because the strength of the dollar will increase the cost of imported coal and iron ore in the second half, while steel prices have remained weak. During the first half, sales volumes were 8 per cent down on the same period a year ago. Although orders had improved "marginally" during the past three months, the market remained extremely fragile.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 3p, but Sir Robert Scholey, the chairman, said the strength and timing of the recovery forecast by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would affect the final payout. Sir Robert said: "We have difficulty in following Mr Lamont's prognostications about the economy. It could be that we are the tail-end Charlie in the recovery, but we think that to assume a false dawn would be dangerous."

British Steel shed 4,500 employees, nearly a tenth of its workforce, during the first half as it strove to cut costs. Restructuring and redundancies cost £105 million. The

company has provided an additional £57 million at the halfway stage to cover further cost cuts. The bill, taken as an exceptional charge, was only partially offset by a £15 million surplus on disposals.

Sir Robert said the job losses included the "rump" of those affected by the closure of the Clydesdale seamless tube mill, but were otherwise spread throughout the company. He refused to disclose the scale of expected job losses during the second half.

Despite the speed and scale of the cuts, sales per employee fell from £90,000 to £86,000. The European steel market was characterised by fierce competition. Prices plunged as producers attempted to counteract downturns in national markets by exporting. The United Kingdom steel market recorded one of the sharpest contractions. British Steel turnover fell 17 per cent to £1.29 billion in the UK during the first half, even though the company increased its market share 1 per cent to 57.1 per cent over the second half of last year.

Despite the battle on its home ground, the company, probably the lowest cost producer in Europe overall, increased exports 7 per cent, although profit margins were thin. Overall, group turnover fell 9.3 per cent to £2.28 billion

against a decline in liquid steel production of 5.6 per cent to 6.7 million tonnes.

British Steel has stripped its investment programme of all new projects except those with a fast return, but still has to invest £200 million to maintain the quality of its plant. As a result, the company had a cash outflow of £279 million during the first half, reducing net funds from £342 million to £60 million.

Sir Robert attacked the support given to other state-owned European producers by their governments. His sharp criticism was directed at Usinor-Sacilor, Europe's biggest steel maker, which is well-placed to target the British market from its plant at Dunkirk.

However, Usinor led the way towards better margins by announcing that it would raise prices by between 4 and 5 per cent in January. British Steel will support Usinor's initiative by raising its own prices by the same amount.

Brian Moffatt, British Steel's managing director, said he was "not very optimistic" about plans to link with Bethlehem Steel in America. Talks with American trade unions on restructuring Bethlehem's activities had made little progress, he said.

Talks with miners, page 22
Comment, page 25



Weaker payout prospects: Sir Robert Scholey, the chairman, is wary of the dangers of a false economic dawn

Goldman Sachs sells Mirror shares

By ANGELA MACKAY IN LONDON AND PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

GOLDMAN Sachs, the American bank owned \$60 million by the Maxwell family, yesterday sold two million shares in Mirror Group Newspapers, taking its stake in the company down half-a-percentage point to 9.98 per cent.

The bank said the sale was not part of the 40 million shares pledged to Goldman Sachs as security against the private loan but marked the sale of all shares beneficially held by the bank in Mirror Group. The bank first disclosed these interests on August 12. Goldman Sachs also

has just under 4 per cent of Maxwell Communication Corporation, which is held as collateral against the \$60 million loan and sold some of those shares last Tuesday.

Kleinwort Benson said yesterday it was holding 14.57 million shares or 3.63 per cent of Mirror Group on behalf of a client, Quantum Fund, a fund management group incorporated in Curacao. Quantum later sold 275,000 shares or 0.07 per cent reducing its total holding to 3.56 per cent.

Shares in Mirror Group ended 2p higher at 114p while

MCC closed 1p lower at 68p. Across the Atlantic, analysts on Wall Street and rivals of the Maxwell family's New York tabloid newspaper, the *Daily News*, have estimated the paper is losing up to \$1 million a week and has little prospect of profits before next March. Robert Maxwell, who took control of the *Daily News* last March from Tribune, the Chicago media group, said then that the paper was "in danger of making a profit by next March."

But New York newspaper executives expect the paper to

lose between \$32 million and \$45 million under the first year of Maxwell ownership based on their knowledge of the local market and the few statistics that the *Daily News* has released. And that is despite \$30 million worth of cuts that have already been made within the paper.

Kevin Maxwell, the paper's publisher, says the family expects to raise \$1.25 billion from asset sales over the next two months: \$750 million from its public companies and \$500 million from private interests.

Sheikh's losses in BCCI confirmed

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN ABU DHABI

REPRESENTATIVES of Sheikh Zayed bin Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, refused to comment on reports that the Bank of Credit and Commerce International had stolen more than \$2 billion from the sheikh before it was closed in July.

A spokesman said the sheikh had been a victim of the fraud, but he could not say by how much. Sheikh Zayed's losses are likely to exceed \$3 billion because he is expected to indemnify Emirates citizens who lost money when BCCI was closed. Abu Dhabi has a total exposure of about \$9 billion to the bank, much of it from individuals.

Sheikh Zayed's personal wealth, like many Gulf rulers,

is intricately bound up with the public treasury, making it difficult to put a precise figure on his loss.

Bankers said they believed the sheikh handed over a large proportion of his personal share of the country's oil revenues to the bank to help build up BCCI as an international institution. The sheikh takes 9 per cent of the oil revenues. During the past decade this portion sometimes amounted to \$1 billion.

The spokesman also denied BCCI had lent any money to the sheikh or Crown Prince Khalifa, his son, despite BCCI records showing they had loans of \$149.5 million outstanding when the bank closed.

BT sale comes with novel twist

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government is proposing a novel scheme to allot more shares than it initially plans to sell as a means of stabilising market dealing in the wake of its £5 billion-plus sale of BT shares next month. The scheme will boost the sale proceeds by £400 million.

Over-allotment is normal in bond and international equity markets, say the government's advisers, but it has not been tried in a domestic share issue. The aim is to ensure that in dealings in the after-market, supply and demand are more evenly matched than earlier privatisations.

Warburg Securities, the government broker, will create a short position on its books by allotting the extra

shares to institutional investors. Warburg will have the benefit of an option over the equivalent number of shares in the government's remaining holding, which it can call on a month after dealing to square its books.

The government will tomorrow reveal more details of the BT sale when the pathfinder prospectus is published. It will indicate how much it hopes to raise in cash terms and roughly how many shares will be issued. The government is thought to be looking at a figure in excess of £5 billion, but it could sell more if there is overwhelming demand.

Comment, page 25

A night in or out makes the Grade

By MATTHEW BOND

MICHAEL Grade is a man who has built a reputation on his ability to persuade people to stay in and spend the evening watching television. Lord Delfont, his 82-year-old uncle, has based an entire career and built a fortune on persuading people to do precisely the opposite.

For Lord Delfont is the antithesis of the couch potato who provides fodder, nephew with ratings. As chairman of First Leisure, one of the few comparatively successful quoted leisure companies, nothing makes him happier than people going to the theatre, to the discotheque or the bowling alley, especially if they belong to his company.

So was there not a possible conflict of interest in Lord Delfont's inviting Mr Grade, the head of Channel 4, to join the board as a non-executive director? Was it not possible



Grade: joining the board



Lord Delfont: departing the television industry

that his nephew might secretly undermine First Leisure's plans? After all, the man forced to wait 15 minutes to buy a round of drinks at the discotheque bar will surely settle for an evening of *Cheers* and *The Golden Girls* next time round?

"Yes, I suppose that it is just possible," said Lord Delfont yesterday. "But on the other hand, anyone who is in quite such a prominent position in

the television industry has to be very aware of people's tastes and trends. I think Michael will be a very important addition to the board."

Lord Delfont played down any significance in the fact that his nephew's appointment was announced on the day he had confirmed he would step down as chairman of First Leisure in just under a year's time. "By the time I go,

I will have passed my 83rd birthday, all being well, and I simply wanted to make sure that everything was OK from the company's point of view. However, I will still be playing an active role in the company."

Lord Delfont will stay on as an executive director of the company and will become its president. Lord Rayne, the deputy chairman, will become chairman.

Lord Delfont indicated that his nephew's non-executive appointment would be sincere. "I have always believed that there should be a very strong presence of non-executive directors. They have a very difficult and tough job to do."

"He'll only be getting the normal rate for independent directors," Lord Delfont said. "It's not very much — just £10,000 a year." Barely enough to keep Mr Grade in braces, let alone cigars.

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Repayment of £107m credit disappoints

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RETAIL sales figures for September have been revised upwards to show a 0.3 per cent rise, but accompanying data show that consumers made their biggest net repayment of credit for any month since the series was introduced in 1986.

The Treasury said the final volume sales figures, which completed the third quarter, confirmed an "upward trend" in consumer demand and pointed to a "slow recovery".

German banker hints at rates rise

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE president of one of Germany's regional central banks has made clear that domestic interest rates may yet have to be raised, despite falling rates in other countries.

Helmut Hesse, president of the central bank for Lower Saxony and a member of the Bundesbank's policy-setting council, said on television that monetary policy had to remain tight, while an interest rate rise would be even "more plausible". His remarks follow an interview given by Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, to *The Times* last week, in which he appeared to try to draw attention away from interest rate signals and focus on monetary targeting instead. Herr Schlesinger's comments were widely interpreted in the financial markets as ruling out an early German tightening.

Herr Hesse said Germany's domestic inflationary pressures were mounting, which could threaten the stability of the mark. Money supply growth was accelerating, bank lending was up, and a wage-price spiral was to be feared, he said. The Bundesbank has issued repeated warnings to the trade unions about what it considers excessive wage demands.

Independent economists have been forecasting that the Bundesbank was likely to raise its key lending rates again by the end of this year as a signal to the unions to moderate pay demands.

Northern hunts GrandMet unit

By MARTIN WALLER

GRAND Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, hopes to raise more than £500 million from the sale of the Express milk and dairy products business, one of the cornerstones of the old GrandMet empire under Sir Maxwell Joseph, its founder.

Northern Foods, the food and dairy group that supplies Marks and Spencer among others, has confirmed it wants to buy the liquid milk and fresh dairy products businesses. These are Express Dairy, which supplies to doorsteps throughout Britain but with a concentration in the Southeast, and Eden Vale, the country's biggest maker of chilled dairy products and best known for Ski yoghurt.

The businesses are estimated to be worth between £300 million and £350 million, and Northern says it is likely that part of the consideration will be in new shares. The group said it was not interested in GrandMet's commodity butter and cheese division, which supplies own-label products to the big food retailers, or the Irish operations. GrandMet is believed to be holding talks with various parties interested in the

latter operations, which could fetch an additional £200 million. The disposal would repay a large amount of the group's estimated £2.9 billion debts, incurred with the \$5.75 billion purchase of the American Pillsbury business two years ago.

GrandMet's shares rose 9p to 864p on the Northern announcement. It is known the group had wanted to concentrate on its leading drinks brands such as Smirnoff and J&B whisky, the Burger King hamburger chain, the Green Giant food business and Haagen-Dazs ice cream. Most recently, the Dominic Group off-licence business was sold to Whitbread.

The Express dairy chain was bought in 1969 for £18 million by Sir Maxwell, who founded GrandMet as a hotel chain at the end of the Fifties. He subsequently bought businesses such as Berni Inns and Watney Mann, the brewer.

Northern supplies milk through its Dale Farm business, with a concentration in the North, the Midlands and Northern Ireland. It also has a range of food brands, including Bowers sausages and Fox's biscuits.

Sheraton seeks growth in Europe



Expansion minded: ITT, the American group, wants to build its Sheraton hotel chain in Europe by buying or taking on management of existing hotels. Rand Araskog, chairman of ITT, said the group is under-represented in Europe and the Far East and talks are in hand with potential vendors and partners. Image problem, page 25.

Brokers return to the black

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF MEMBER

THE London Stock Exchange collectively returned to the black in the first half of this year for the first time since 1989, according to the latest edition of the exchange's quarterly.

The 408 broking firms showed an aggregate pre-tax profit of £189 million, a sharp bounce-back from the £208 million loss of the previous half-year. The improvement was attributed to a general increase in turnover, restored market confidence after the Gulf conflict and a surge in rights issues.

The overall picture for London is certainly upbeat. In the third quarter, the exchange outperformed all other big international markets, with the FT-SE 100 index hitting a record high on September 2.

The index ended the quarter 8.6 per cent ahead of the previous one and 22 per cent up from the beginning of the year. Market capitalisation of UK and Irish listed companies followed the same trend, rising 11 per cent to £575.9 billion.

The review said the rush to rights issues, with 37 listed and seven unlisted companies raising a total of £3.06 billion during the third quarter, indicates that 1991 is likely to be a record year for this form of finance. So far this year, 142 rights issues have raised £8.11 billion, compared with the record of £8.86 billion achieved in 1987.

Over a ten-year period, overseas investors' share of UK equities business rose fourfold to 20 per cent, according to a survey conducted for exchange, underlining London's position as a market for international professionals.

Individual investors currently account for 42 per cent of brokers' revenue, similar to their share last year, although their share of domestic equity turnover has dropped to 17 per cent from 27 per cent over the same period.

Although commission charges on very small deals have risen, individual investors have increased average transaction values, reducing commission rates to 0.89 per cent from 1 per cent in 1981.

Wakeham invites miners to talks on Coal buyout

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is inviting leaders of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to talks aimed at helping the union in its possible bid to buy out all or part of British Coal.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, announced the move in the Commons yesterday, making clear that the government is keen for the UDM—a union formed in the 1984-5 coal strike by moderate miners breaking away from the National Union of Mineworkers, led by Arthur Scargill—to take a stake in a privatised coal industry.

Mr Wakeham's move adds considerable weight to the prospect of a UDM bid. Although the UDM has appointed Lloyds Merchant Bank as an adviser to draw up options and prospects for a UDM-led employee buyout of some or all of a privatised British Coal, the announcement by the UDM of a possible bid has provoked wry

amusement among some British Coal managers.

The energy secretary told the Commons that he has written to Roy Lynk, president of the UDM, inviting the union and Lloyds to meet him "so that I can give him all the information that I am able to give him".

Mr Wakeham said of the union: "I am very anxious that they shall play a part in the eventual privatisation of British Coal, because I believe that that union and its members recognise that coal has a future, but only if it can be operated on a profitable and economic basis."

Lloyds is researching a buyout for the UDM in the run-up to a general election. While the bank has been asked by the union to look at the prospects of an employee buyout covering the entire coal industry, if the government were to proceed with privatisation by breaking up

British Coal into a series of regional companies the UDM might be interested in buying a company that covered the Nottinghamshire coalfield, which forms the core of its membership.

The UDM is likely to want to question Mr Wakeham closely about the future of the coalfield in the wake of preliminary reports from NM Rothschild, the merchant bankers who are the government's main advisers on coal privatisation. Some interpretations suggest that the Rothschild reports propose that up to 44,000 jobs could be cut in the industry, which would be reduced to only 14 deep-mined pits.

Both British Coal and the government deny this, however, and yesterday Mr Wakeham told Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, in the Commons that he had "neither accepted nor rejected" Rothschild's advice.

Asda rights issue succeeds

By MICHAEL CLARK STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

CITY investors have signalled a unanimous vote of confidence in Archie Norman, the newly appointed chief executive of Asda, the debt-laden supermarket chain.

They have taken up 93.5 per cent of Asda's £357 million rights issue, which looked to be on the brink of disaster before Mr Norman joined the company from Kingsfisher, where he was finance director, last month.

The rump of 60 million shares was placed with various institutions by the company's own brokers, Warburg Securities and Cazenove, at 46½p, compared with the rights terms of 35p a share. The Asda share price ended the session 1½p firmer at 47½p.

The City initially gave a cold shoulder to the issue when it was announced in September. The group was short of a chief executive and its financial health was in decline, with pre-tax profits this year expected to drop from £170 million to less than £100 million.



Inspiring confidence: Archie Norman, chief of Asda

Last laugh in knocking on doors

Betterware overlooks the recession

By MARTIN BARROW

THE door-to-door salesman who arrives laden with toilet brushes and bin liners may still be a figure of fun, but the last laugh is clearly being enjoyed by Andrew Cohen.

For it was Mr Cohen and his family that acquired the company now known as Betterware Consumer Products from the receiver in 1983. Today, he is chief executive of a group capitalised at £90 million and which has breezed through the recession as if it had never happened.

Betterware has no airs and graces. The majority of its products are made from plastic and few retail for more than £10. Its offering of bright plastic buckets and potato peelers may not appeal to a more discerning clientele but its colourful catalogues, delivered door to door, are finding their way into an ever-increasing number of households.

A total of 180,000 homes receive updated catalogues each week. Although the average sale is not much above £9, the numbers add up for Betterware, which has no overheads, advertising or shop wastage.

At a time when most retailers grapple with the deepest of recessions, Betterware cheerfully reports a 65 per cent increase in interim profits to £2.8 million on sales up 50 per cent to £21.1 million. The interim dividend is 0.85p against 0.68p. Earnings have risen by an annual compound rate of 50 per cent over 5 years and Mr Cohen, who has recently exported the Betterware concept to France, believes similar growth lies ahead.

He said: "I have just returned from a direct sales conference and the one word

that was not mentioned was recession."

If anything, the recession has made it easier to recruit distributors, particularly in well-heeled areas of suburbia where Betterware was not previously represented, as unemployed white-collar workers look for ways to supplement their income.

Even so, Betterware still reaches just 25 per cent of its potential customer base, so Mr Cohen sees plenty to go for. He also quotes statistics showing that the market in Britain is still relatively modest compared with other countries. British households spend an average of £32 a year, compared with £50 in France, £66 in Japan and £76 in America.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Reshuffle at Petrocon fuels share price rise

SHARES in Petrocon Group rose 10p to 45p after a new management team emerged at the surveying and engineering company. Colin Robinson, who controls the privately owned Beverley Group, has been appointed chairman and chief executive after acquiring 8.2 per cent of the company at 50p a share for a total consideration of £1.38 million.

A further 12.4 per cent of the company has been placed with institutions by Smith New Court. Of the total placing of 20.6 per cent of the company's shares, 18.5 per cent was owned by HIT Investments, the investment arm of Hillside Holdings. The balance was owned by Roger Pinnington, introduced to the group by Hillside in March 1989, who has resigned as chairman.

Mr Robinson is best known for leading the £115 million management buyout of Hollis Industries in July 1988. By January 1990 the management team had disposed of most of Hollis to repay the senior debt but retained Stothert & Pitt, around which the Beverley Group has been developed. Three other Beverley directors have joined the Petrocon board — Chris Colbeck as finance director, and Mike Bridge and Eleanor Robinson as operations directors.

Wardle Storeys slips

BRIAN Taylor, chief executive of Wardle Storeys, the plastic products and safety equipment maker, said the market showed no signs of an upturn as he reported a fall in group pre-tax profits from £11.08 million to £8.19 million in the year to August 31.

But a good performance from the safety and survival equipment business, recovery prospects for the technical products division and strong cash generation last year have prompted a final dividend of 12p, lifting the total by 1p to 16p. Mr Taylor said current conditions were even worse than at the same time last year. Orders were harder to obtain and competition, particularly from Europe, had become fiercer.

Times, Page 24

Philips finalises sale

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, finalised the sale of its computer information systems division to Digital Equipment Corporation. The deal was announced in July, and subsequently investigated and cleared by the European Commission. The sale marks an important strategic shift for Philips, which last year suffered big losses.

The deal includes medium and large computer systems but excludes personal computers, which will be integrated into the consumer electronics division. The division has a total staff of 7,000. Philips said the decision allowed the company to concentrate on personal computers, while Pier Carlo Falot, the European president of DEC, said: "This agreement is a major element in Digital's move into a leading position in the banking IT sector."

Hogg Robinson buy

HOGG Robinson, the travel, transport and financial services group, has bought the Dens group, of Belgium, for 410 million Belgian francs, or £6.8 million in cash.

Dens carries out trailer operations across western Europe and a range of port services concentrated primarily at Ostend. Hogg Robinson said the deal would contribute to its existing European road transport activities.

US firm buys 5.8% of Beazer

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALL Street began speculating last night that Hanson might be held up to greenmail by a small New Jersey arbitrage firm that has just bought a 5.8 per cent stake in Beazer, the building products group, for which Lord Hanson has mounted an agreed £351.4 million bid.

Alpine Associates, the American arbitrage partnership, disclosed that it has accumulated more than 16.5 million ordinary Beazer shares over recent months, at prices that are close to the equivalent of Hanson's take-over price.

A spokesman for Hanson was not available for comment last night. Alpine Associates says it never comments on its investment policies. Its Beazer stake represents 4.1 million American depository receipts, bought at about \$8 a share. Hanson's 123.5p per share offer for Beazer is worth about \$8.75 per ADR at last night's exchange rate.

It is understood Alpine is interested only in being bought out at prices higher than they paid for the shares. The size of their stake could cause Hanson considerable difficulties in completing its bid should Alpine decide to demand a higher offer.

Alpine's move is the second American hurdle to be erected against Hanson's Beazer bid in the past week. The Federal Trade Commission, watchdog of anti-competition, has raised concerns over the domination by the merged group of the cement industry in Northern California.

Hanson has promised to hive off those companies that the FTC might consider a possible monopoly and is currently supplying the department with more information.

Rothmans shares hit by fall

SHARES of Rothmans International fell 39p to £11.21p after results from the 50 per cent owned Rothmans Holdings in Australia showing a cut dividend and a 55.8 per cent fall in interim earnings.

Rothmans Holdings reported net earnings of 20.1 cents a share for the six months to end-September (45.5 cents) and a dividend of 29 cents (31 cents). The net profit was \$24.4 million (£11.1 million), (Aus\$54.9 million previously).

Bimec better

BIMEC Industries, whose interests include water and waste treatment, is raising its interim dividend from 0.5p to 0.67p a share after reporting pre-tax profits of £3 million (£2 million) for the six months to September 30. Turnover was £53 million (£24 million).

Barlow steady

BARLOW Rand, the South African industrial and mining group that controls J Bibby & Sons, earned virtually unchanged pre-tax profits of £2.19 billion (£246 million) in the year to end-September. Turnover was £31.9 billion (£29.9 billion). The final dividend stays unchanged at 119 cents.

CH Bailey loss

CH BAILEY, the ship repairer and diversified engineering contractor, reported losses of £664,000 for the year to end-March (£103,000 profit). Losses were 1.10p a share (0.19p earnings). There is again no dividend. Turnover was £4.9 million (£7.5 million).

Steel purchase

STEEL Burrell Jones Group has acquired a 24 per cent interest in Dennis Hunt Risk Management Services for a nominal consideration.

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THE TIMES

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Invesco fined £75,000 for breaching Peps rules

By SARA MCCONNELL

INVESCO MIM, the investment management company, has been fined £75,000 by the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation (Imro) for 10 breaches of rules in its administration of personal equity plans (Peps).

The most serious breach was the company's failure earlier this year to reconcile £2.7 million of client money with customer assets. This has now been made good from the company's own resources.

Imro said that for the past two and a half years, Invesco MIM, formerly MIM Britannia, had failed to keep adequate records of Peps transactions with its customers and establish and maintain adequate systems for the control of accounting records.

Invesco had also submitted a statement of representation for the first six months of 1989 that was "inaccurate and presented a misleading view of the extent to which the member was complying with the Imro rules."

The disciplinary committee said it had found that "although the statement of representation was not deliberately misleading, the person signing had failed to satisfy himself as to the accuracy of the document, which was a serious matter".

The breaches of rules af-

ected 110,000 customers with a total of £220 million in investments.

The company is the seventh to be fined for accounting and administration rule breaches since four companies in the Hill Samuel group were fined a total of £100,000 in May for 13 rule breaches.

Invesco MIM's £75,000 is the second largest fine to be levied. It is the first company to have a cash shortfall after reconciling current accounts.

John Morgan, Imro's chief executive said: "People should not be misled into thinking this was just another series of technicalities. This was a case of a company steering without a compass. It is a mercy that there has been a good deal of work from our accountants on administration systems."

Invesco MIM said: "We were new in the market, we had lots of stock lying around and all the money was accounted for. It was just a case of putting the two figures, client money and stock assets together. We were snowed under when we went into Peps in 1989."

The company, which has a total of £335 million under management in Peps, will have to pay costs estimated at £80,000 to £90,000 on top of the fine.

Pöhl joins Unilever board



New recruit: Karl Otto Pöhl, the former president of the German Bundesbank, is to join Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food group, as an advisory director next year. After resigning in July, Herr Pöhl has joined numerous, mainly German, boards.

Merchant Retail falls but sales rise

By MATTHEW BOND

MERCHANT Retail, which operates Normans' supermarkets in the Southwest and Joplings department stores in the Northeast, has reported pre-tax profits fell 10 per cent to £1.23 million for the six months to September 28.

David Wallis, chief executive, described the result as satisfactory given adverse conditions and announced a partially uncovered dividend of 1.1p. He said that Normans' sales were up 1 per cent on a like for like basis but net margins had fallen from 4.1 per cent to 3.6 per cent. Sales at had risen Joplings 2 per cent.

Merchant Retail's interest bill dropped from £1.5 million to £1.2 million after June's £5.8-million rights issue that cut borrowings from £16.2 million to £11.8 million.

Mr Wallis said it was not yet possible to gauge the level of Christmas trading this year. "Both divisions have been set up to ensure that they achieve the maximum possible share of the available spend and there is encouragement from current sales results."

Scottish Mutual agrees to Abbey National merger

By OUR CITY STAFF

SCOTTISH Mutual policyholders yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a takeover by the Abbey National, with only 8 per cent voting against the proposal. If the Court of Session in Scotland agrees to the proposed takeover, it will go ahead in the new year.

About 300 people attended a policyholders' meeting in Glasgow. Of these, 84 per cent voted in favour on a show of hands. Postal votes received by last Saturday brought the figure up to 92 per cent in favour. Scottish Mutual and Abbey National both said they were pleased with the turnout of 39,659 policyholders, about 25 per cent of the 170,000 eligible to vote. Two papers were spoiled.

Leslie Gray, Scottish Mutual's general manager, corporate services, said: "We are very happy to get such an overwhelming vote in favour." He added that the meeting had been an orderly one, with 12 questions from the floor, mostly wanting more information. One per-

son, Douglas McGhee, a policyholder who has been publicly critical of the proposal, expressed concern about what Scottish Mutual was intending to do with a surplus of £132 million on demutualisation. Scottish Mutual said 90 per cent would go into the with-profits fund for the benefit of policyholders and 10 per cent would go to the Abbey National.

John Fry, Abbey National's group services manager, said: "This was a very firm vote in favour. We are now going to be working with all possible speed to get Abbey National Life up and running."

The Abbey has offered £258 million for Scottish Mutual and will pay bonuses totalling £70 million to eligible policyholders. After 1993, Abbey National customers will be sold insurance policies from Abbey National Life, a new company to be set up by Abbey and Scottish Mutual. Abbey is at present tied to Friends' Provident but will terminate this agreement in 1993.

Parretti applies for permission to re-enter America

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

GIANCARLO Parretti, who is involved in a court case to retain control of MGM/United Artists, the film maker, is engaged in a new battle to re-enter America.

The Italian financier had to leave America when his temporary visa expired on October 31.

Permission to stay was revoked by the American Immigration and Naturalization Service, which alleged Signor Parretti had misstated his background.

The INS then said it had overstated the case and Signor Parretti reapplied for a new visa in Rome.

Regaining access to America is important if Signor Parretti is not to earn the title of one of the shortest-lived film makers in Hollywood.



Parretti: court case

His Pathé Communications Corporation (PCC) paid \$1.3 billion for MGM/United Artists, about a year ago, but Signor Parretti could lose the studio if he loses the American court case.

Crédit Lyonnais, the French bank that is PCC's principal lender, has been in a four-month battle with Signor Parretti since it ousted him as chairman of PCC and then alleged he breached a loan agreement by attempting to take part in the management of the company.

The two have been fighting the case in the Delaware Courts for almost two months.

A decision is expected by the end of this month. During court evidence, Charles Meeker, a lawyer with Crédit Lyonnais who later became president of the MGM film studio, said he had been involved in questioning Signor Parretti about some of his deals.

Under last summer's rescue agreement, Crédit Lyonnais can take control of Signor Parretti's 51 per cent stake in PCC and put the entire film studio up for sale if Signor Parretti fails to reduce debts by \$125 million by the end of this month.

Signor Parretti has filed a \$1 billion suit against Crédit Lyonnais in Los Angeles that is due to be tried next year.

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Sweden to embark on privatisation

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE centre-right Swedish government has embarked on the first stage of a wide-ranging economic reform programme, which includes a privatisation scheme and plans to allow foreigners to buy Swedish companies and assets without prior government approval.

Per Westerberg, the industry minister, plans to sell the state's holdings in 35 companies, including Procordia, the food and pharmaceuticals company, where the state and Volvo, the car maker, each have a 43 per cent voting stake. The government exercises control through Fortia, the state-owned holding company, which is estimated to be worth about SKr25 billion (£2.34 billion). Other companies in the initial phase include Svenskt Stål, the steel group, and Statens Vattenfallverk, the hydroelectric utility.

The privatisation programme is intended to raise funds to cut Sweden's budget deficit, which in the current financial year is estimated to

be SKr65 billion. Mr Westerberg said: "It is vital to start the privatisation of state-owned companies as soon as possible to vitalise the economy and industry." The proposals have to be approved by parliament.

The government also proposes to change the foreign investment law to attract foreign investment, the lack of which is regarded as one of the key problems of the Swedish economy. Mr Westerberg proposes to abolish a legal clause, which requires foreign investors to seek government permission for the acquisition of Swedish companies or commercial property. This could lead to the abolition of certain share classes, which are only open to Swedish citizens.

The changes form part of an agreement between the European Free Trade Association, of which Sweden is a member, and the European Community to establish the European Economic Space, which entails the harmonisation of commercial and corporate law.

LLOYD'S

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LLOYD'S

The name that covers the Earth.

COMMENT

Sir Robert spells it out

Trust blunt-speaking Sir Robert Scholey to wake the markets up to some harsh manufacturing realities. British Steel would have been hit hard by recession under any regime, but the European Community regime has been particularly unkind. The high value set for sterling within the ERM has made its efforts to sell more steel on the continent particularly unprofitable. At the same time, competitors such as Usinor, the French state company, have been able to infiltrate the British market and have their capital made up as required through various state channels. The Italians are doing much the same via their traditional regional route.

As a result, British Steel's achievement in cutting costs in money terms, has counted for little and, as with other bulk semi-manufactures, there is little sign of recovery in its markets. None of the company's struggles might matter to the stock market if Sir Robert had not made clear that British Steel's final dividend was a likely source of cash savings to keep the company in decent financial shape. The outflow for capital spending and redundancies was £280 million in the first half. The modest interim dividend was maintained, but unless there is a marked recovery by next June, the more important final payment is in severe danger. Last year's 4.75p might even come down to 1.5p, some observers now fear, virtually halving the year's payment.

Dealers quickly gave their verdict on the likely speed of economic recovery. British Steel is now expected to make a pre-tax loss of about £50 million for the full year, due to exceptional redundancy and restructuring costs. The shares rapidly tumbled by a fifth. If the recovery came and Sir Robert, therefore, stuck to his declared desire for stable dividend payments, British Steel shares would be yielding nearly 13 per cent. That is not a great display of City confidence in the upturn on which the valuation of much of the market rests.

Green shoe shuffle

The appointment of Warburg Securities as lead manager to the government's sale of BT shares was not just a form of words. The sale is being more thoroughly managed than any previous big equity issue in Britain. One of the first signs was the book-building of potential offers from institutions in different centres. Then it became clear that while the sale was nominally an open tender for shares, some bidders could be managed out of contention if the government's advisers did not like the colour of their money. With that power in hand, institutions were told that any jiggery-pokery to depress BT shares ahead of the sale would be punished by exclusion from the issue. Warburg now plans to extend management into the after-market, by means of an over-allotment of shares in the institutional tender. This should affect small investors only by making any instant profits more predictable by ensuring the BT price holds up for long enough for them to sell.

The managers may allot shares beyond those nominally on offer up to a value of £400 million. If the price falls in the after-market, they can buy shares back in up to that level. If the price rises, the extra shares will be supplied to Warburg by the government from its remaining holding of about a quarter of BT.

This is common practice in international bond issues but is not familiar to British share markets, even though it was first used in America 60 years ago for the Green Shoe company, which has given its name to the manoeuvre. BT2 is going to be the most tightly choreographed state sale yet. The success of the international bond markets suggests that orderly markets increase confidence. To many people in the City, as well as ordinary investors, the process will look as much like massaging as managing markets.

Lloyd's sets sail into another winter of members' discontent

Jonathan Prynn
assesses the
ongoing problems
at the world's
premier centre
for underwriting

The reputation of Lloyd's of London in its home country has taken a battering over the past decade. A succession of scandals, followed by a wave of litigation and huge underwriting losses, have combined to keep Lloyd's in the newspapers for all the wrong reasons since the early Eighties. Until recently, the picture abroad was different, particularly in America, where Lloyd's derives a quarter of its premium income and 10 per cent of its membership.

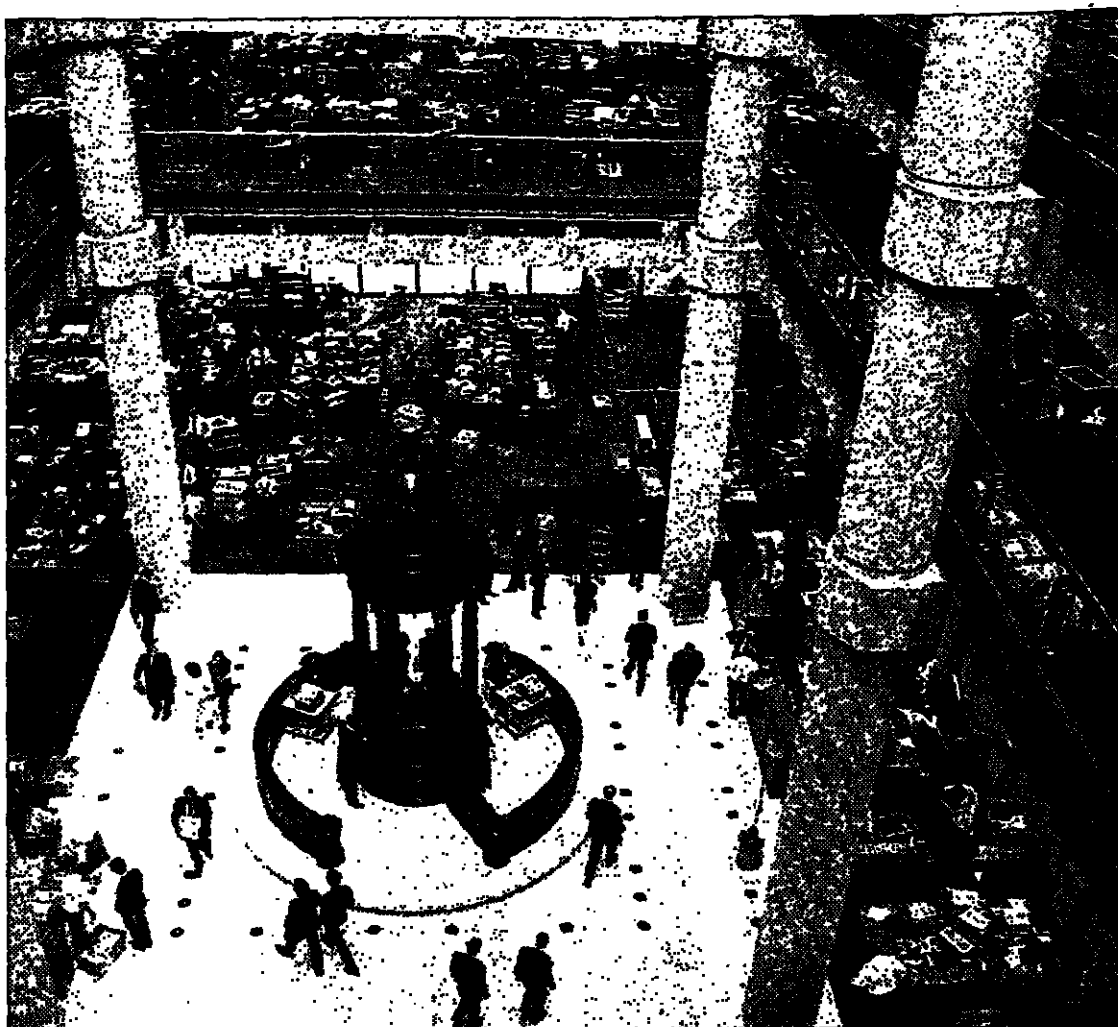
Since Cuthbert Heath declared in 1906 that all his American policyholders should be paid in full after the San Francisco earthquake, Lloyd's has enjoyed an almost mythical status in the American insurance world. Like Burberry raincoats and Fortnum & Mason, Lloyd's formed part of the immutable image of England that America finds so appealing.

No longer. Last month, 64 American names, hit by substantial losses, filed a writ in the New York courts naming almost every senior figure in the market. The writ even invoked anti-racketeering legislation, more usually associated with organised crime, in its allegations against Lloyd's. If ever Lloyd's needed a reminder of its vulnerability in a changing world, that was it. The SEC could stop Lloyd's trading in America, jeopardising its very existence. Few believe this will happen, but the threat from overseas regulators has intensified the siege mentality that has descended on Lime Street and accelerated the frantic pace of reform.

Much of the impetus for this process is provided by straightforward market forces. Lloyd's lost more than £500 million in 1988, its last completed year of account, and is projected to more than double that deficit in the 1989 account, due to end in seven weeks' time.

The losses, combined with the costs of upgrading computer and management systems, have forced many smaller syndicates and agencies into the arms of stronger competitors or out of business altogether. From a peak of more than 400 syndicates in 1989, the market may fall to fewer than 300 syndicates next year, says David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's. By the mid-Nineties syndicate numbers could shrink to 150, leaving Lloyd's with the intriguing problem of what to do with all the floor space not taken up with underwriting boxes.

Many of the syndicates that have ceased trading have come from those involved in the disastrous excess of loss (LMX) reinsurance spiral. Most of the huge losses of



Lime Street blues: Lloyd's faces a problem of excess space as the number of underwriters dwindles

1988 and 1989 were caused by the LMX debacle, and many of the worst exposed syndicates, Gooda Walker and Feltrim, for example, have been forced out of business.

The sight of hard-hit names facing cash calls far in excess of their total personal assets has provoked near panic among sections of Lloyd's membership. This year's round of allocation of underwriting capacity has seen names and their agents adopt a sheeplike approach. Syndicates tainted with the merest sign of danger have been shunned.

Secretan's marine syndicate 367, a descendant of one of the oldest syndicates in Lloyd's, has been the most poignant casualty to date of this process. Secretan was the victim of an earlier generation of underwriting problems: American pollution losses. The syndicate had made losses in 1988 and faces losses for 1989. Because of this, despite its claims that 1991 was "looking better than for any year in the Eighties", names' agents were not prepared to support the syndicate for 1992.

Ironically, this action triggered the outcome most feared by names, an open year, as the managers of 367 decided they could not close 1989 without the capacity in 1992 to accept more unforeseen losses.

The effect of these powerful forces may well be to force out of business the small, entrepreneurial managing agencies constructed around the underwriting skills of a single in-

dividual. Terry Green, the underwriter for Gresham syndicate 321, will be one of those not wielding the pen at his box next year. Although profitable between 1983 and 1987 and recording a far from disgraceful 8 per cent loss in 1988, his syndicate has gone the same way as Secretan.

Mr Green had been censured by Lloyd's, however, for writing more premium than allowed under Lloyd's rules both in 1988 and 1989 because of the unprecedented number of policy renewals after claims.

Although a participant in the LMX market, Mr Green's syndicate was reasonably well protected by its reinsurance programme. News of the technical breach of the rules was enough for support to dry up, forcing syndicate 321, to cease trading from the end of the year. Mr Green is philosophical about the outcome, putting his personal misfortune down to the broader trends within the Lloyd's market.

Mr Green says his story proves "you can't have a dictatorial single figure any more." Certainly Lloyd's is increasingly dominated by the larger, often publicly quoted agencies with management hierarchies, computerised financial controls and corporate identities. "Maybe what comes out the other side," says Mr Green, "will be a market more suitable for the mega-syndicates of today and the huge values they will be expected to insure."

Whether that prophesy comes true or not will become clearer after the Rowland task force, looking at

the future structure of Lloyd's, reports next year.

Many observers now expect it to recommend that names' traditional unlimited liability be modified by some form of mutualisation, under which excessive losses in a few syndicates would be shared round the market.

In the early days of Lloyd's, names' liability was effectively limited by the value of the property, usually a ship, that they were insuring and by the 12-month life of the policy. Thanks to the American courts, Lloyd's is a more dangerous place now. Few think it fair that a name who joins Lloyd's in 1992 might have to pay out on policies written 40 years ago.

Mutualisation would provide some protection against the most crippling losses. But if there is agreement on the need for the ending of unlimited liability there is none on how mutualisation should be introduced. Some names advocate throwing all the 1988, 1989 and 1990 losses into the pot and dividing them equally among the entire membership. Others say the central fund should cover all future losses over a certain level.

Lloyd's has come a long way over the past five years but the battle for its long-term survival is probably still no more than half won. The rout of the Lime Street flat earthers must be completed before Lloyd's can be assured of its place in insurance in the third millennium.

ITT faces an image problem in Europe

It is perhaps not surprising that a conglomerate with interests that range from hotels to car components via financial services has a problem. In the case of ITT, however, the difficulty is neither financial, nor managerial, but one of perception, according to Rand Araskog, the company's chairman, chief executive and president.

ITT has spent so much effort refocusing its operations during the past decade that Europeans have lost sight of what the \$20 billion a year American group does. Mr Araskog says. Since ITT now has considerable ambitions as a European hotelier, it might as well be time to sit up and take notice.

The Sheraton chain, numbering more than 400 owned or operated hotels worldwide, is under-represented in Europe. It has 31 up-market hotels, aimed at business travellers, in Europe, including five in Britain. Three new ones will shortly open in Italy and Portugal.

"We have a good position, but we need more hotels in Europe," Mr Araskog says. Paris, Madrid and Vienna are the prime targets. The company has an agreement to take over two hotels in Moscow, though it has yet to be implemented.

The enthusiasm for establishing new hotels in Europe, and in the Far East, is prompted partly by an oversupplied market in America. That, and the fall in business travel caused by the Gulf War, contributed to a fall in hotel income during 1990 from \$117 million to \$39 million, on revenues of \$832 million.

But hotels are only the most public face of a European business that accounts for 40 per cent of ITT's revenues.

The company's telecommunications manufacturing interests, once its core business, form part of Alcatel, the world's largest telecoms equipment group, based in Holland. ITT has 30 per cent of Alcatel. Alcatel Alsthom, the French state-owned electrical engineering group, owns the rest.

The challenge for the company's Teves automotive braking specialist, based in Germany, is to win more business from Japanese car industry transplants in America and Britain. Mr Araskog says. Profits from Teves have suffered from depressed demand and the replacement of established products by anti-lock braking systems that carry high development costs.

The other main ITT businesses include insurance, education, defence, electronic components, pump-manufacture and forest products. Mr Araskog makes few claims of synergy between such diverse activities. Each has to justify its place in the portfolio by its performance, he says.

What distinguishes ITT from British groups such as Hanson or BTR is the decision to eschew growth by broad-brush acquisitions. Mr Araskog wants growth to be mainly organic. It is an honourable goal, but will do little to put ITT back in the public eye.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fresh start for Styles & Sykes

MIKE Styles and Keith Sykes, the top ranked electronics analysts who left Smith New Court in September, are making a fresh start at Crédit Lyonnais Laing. The pair, who dominated the sector at Scrimgeour Vickers during the early Eighties — moving groups like Plessey and Racal with their circulars — have joined Laing to follow larger companies, working alongside Jerry Crowley who covers smaller stocks. They left SNC, where they had worked since 1987, on September 12, after wrapping up work on the Racal demerger — a matter of days before Williams Holdings launched its hostile £753 million bid for Racal Electronics. The pair, who commanded a £250,000 package each in their time at Scrimgeour, are rumoured to have taken a sizeable cut to work for the French.

FROM the Southeastern Oil Review, published in America: "Success is something that always comes faster to the man your wife almost married."

Wedding bells

STAFF at Panmure Gordon, the British broking subsidiary of North Carolina National Bank, may have suspected something when two of its holiday took a Caribbean analyst together. But even the sharpest office gossips were astounded when the pair returned yesterday — to announce that they are now man and wife. Tressan MacCarthy, electronics and telephone networks analyst, and Angelos Anastasiou, who covers aco-



"Just like the chairman said — no upturn"

space, engineering, electricity and water, tied the knot in Antigua, and broke the news over the office announcement system. "They were married in a grass hut on the beach," says a delighted colleague.

Much ado . . .

THEATRE-GOERS at the Barbican Theatre, London, on Saturday night were delighted to spot Sir Leon Brittan, Norman Lamont and their wives at a performance — appropriately, some would say — of *Much Ado About Nothing*. "They were sitting together and were well behaved; it was quite charming," says my mole.

Price sensitive?

THIEVES in Hertfordshire's stockbroker belt have a strange sense of priorities, it would appear. Peter Holgate, assistant chief dealer at Barclays Bank Foreign Exchange, stepped off the train at Rickmansworth one evening to find someone had broken into his BMW Series 3. Dis-

may turned to bewilderment when he found that the thief had ignored his Aquascutum cashmere coat, portable telephone and other goodies and made off with a media cassette player . . . and his Futures Pager. The pager transmits up-to-date market prices, so perhaps the crook fancied his chances on the Forex market.

WORD reaches me from Romford that Alan Sugar, the chairman and chief executive of Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, drives around at weekends in a battered, old Vauxhall Cavalier. Sugar's normal form of transport during working hours is a spanking new Rolls-Royce, but it seems he likes to go unrecognised at the weekends.

Marathon men

SAFELY back from the New York Marathon on November 3, City runners are now competing to see who can collect the most money for charity. One of the leaders, Richard Gray, of Gerrard & National, who has £14,000 pledged, promoted himself admirably. At the startline in Manhattan, he found himself face to face with David Dinkins, New York's mayor, who claimed to have heard all about White-Kidz, the charity for disabled children, which Gray and 130 other runners were supporting. An unlikely star was Tony Kockelburgh, finance director of the settlement services division at the London Stock Exchange. He managed an athlete's time of 2 hours 53 minutes — even faster than the pace of life back at the Stock Exchange tower.

JON ASHWORTH

Need to 'cap' names' losses

From Mr Michael Freeman
Sir, In his letter to you — "Lloyd's Action will pass on Loss" (November 1) Mr R.B. Gristwood fails to address the issues that have provoked so many Names at Lloyd's to form themselves into action groups to seek redress as a result of the dreadful, and in many cases ruinous, losses which they have sustained for the 1988 and 1989 underwriting years. None of them would deny that they should have been aware that there cannot be profit without risk but all will contend that they believed that Lloyd's owed to them a duty of care properly to regulate the market which they, the Names, constituted so as to protect them from the abuses which have given rise to the worst-ever losses in the 300-year history of Lloyd's.

Many of the members' agents to whom the Names entrusted their entire wealth placed those Names without proper advice or warning upon Syndicates writing business of the very highest risk and even when it should have been clear that those Syndicates were totally out of control, mainly due to the "spiral" nature of the risks being written, allowed their Names to remain on the Syndicates.

The results is that many Names with declared means of as little as £100,000 have so far suffered losses in excess of £150,000 with no end in sight for them because the Syndicates will remain "open" for years to come.

These were not simply "wrong decisions or errors of judgment on the part of the Chief Executive" as stated by Mr Gristwood but the result of an entire system which has shown itself to be seriously flawed. There is no true com-

parison between a Name at Lloyd's and a shareholder in a limited company. The worst that can befall a shareholder is the loss of his investment. However, because of the out-moded concept of unlimited liability, some 30 per cent of Names risk the loss of everything which they have worked for and saved all their lives. The regulatory function of Lloyd's and the safeguards which they believed existed have failed them and the members and managing agents who have been the immediate cause of their financial ruin are busy being bought and sold, ceasing business and, in some cases, going into liquidation.

They are unable publicly to admit liability for what has occurred because their E&O Insurers forbid them to do so and thus the only remedy left available to the Names is effectively to sue the E&O Insurers who are, by and large, Syndicates which have not so far been involved in the worst of the losses.

The fact that this means that the inevitable losses, including the claims being made on the Stop-Loss Insurers, will now go round the Lloyd's market in yet another form of the "spiral", is not the fault of the Names but of the system itself.

The answer is for Lloyd's now to recognise that it cannot look to the future without taking care of the past and to initiate discussions with all those involved formally to "cap" or mutualise the worst of the losses before further, and perhaps irretrievable, damage is done to its once fine and unique reputation. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL D. FREEMAN, 1 Great Cumberland Place, W1.

Demarcation that keeps able women down

From Mrs P. Aldred
Sir, Would it not be more cost-effective for American companies to employ directors capable of dictating letters rather than spending their valuable time writing them out by hand (City Diary, November 7)?

With a computer-literate generation soon to reach maturity maybe we shall see an end to the job demarcation between those who compose the letters and those who process them.

Perhaps this may help to put paid to the tradition which

keeps women with office skills at the bottom of the heap where they are too useful to lose, while men with less ability are promoted to management.

Yours faithfully,
MRS P. ALDRED,
54 Belmont Park, SE13.

On November 13th
at Chelsea Old Town Hall,
you can meet
various interesting
people,
take a seat
and have a cup of tea.

With stalls ranging from books, bric-a-brac, antiques and fine china to nearly new designer clothes, tombola, raffles, produce, home-made refreshments and many others, the 28th Sunshine Fair is the place to find a bargain and meet some friends.
Sandy Ball will be signing copies of his latest book "George Adamson: Lord of the Lions" 11am-12.15pm.

The Sunshine Fair
Royal National Institute for the Blind

10.30am - 4.00pm Chelsea Old Town Hall Kings Road, London SW3.
Underground: Sloane Square. Bus route 11, 15, 23.
Admission £1, senior citizens and children 50p.

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Fellow Traveller,

My main aim for Virgin Atlantic was always to concentrate on being the best airline, rather than the biggest.

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Well, we listened and what we did seems to have paid off.

Virgin Atlantic have won numerous awards over the years. We've been named 'Best Business Class' for four years running by Business Traveller Magazine and 'Airline of the Year' and 'Best Business Class in the World' by Executive Travel, to name but a few.

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We still constantly strive to provide the business traveller with a Business Class service that is better than most airlines' First Class.

Upper Class has more on-board space than any other Business Class, equipped with First Class Sleeper Seats that allow you to stretch out and relax in comfort. There's even an on-board bar and lounge.

What's more, a chauffeur driven car will drive you to and from the airport and each time you fly you will receive a free confirmable Economy ticket. You can use this yourself or give it to your family or friends.

In fact I'm so confident that Upper Class is the best Business Class in the world that I'm prepared to offer you this unique pledge. If, after flying Upper Class for the first time you feel another airline offers a better Business Class package, Virgin Atlantic will fly you back free.

I look forward to seeing you on-board in the near future.

Best wishes,

Richard Branson
Richard Branson

Ashdown House, High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1D.

These days few things are worth the paper they're written on. Here's the exception. The Virgin Atlantic Upper Class pledge. Its purpose is to put our belief in Upper Class to the test.

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With our success in recent awards it's no wonder that we're confident enough to say that once you try us you won't want to fly any other Business Class.

If however, after flying with us for the first time you feel another airline offers a better Business Class package, Virgin Atlantic will fly you back free. Remember this offer only applies if you book a return trip and it's your first time in Upper Class.

Fly Upper Class to the USA or Japan before the end of the year and we think you'll agree, our words are more than mere pie in the sky.

For full information about this unique pledge and Upper Class you can register your interest and make reservations by calling 0800 747 747.

atlantic

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ADVERTISING

Vol '000				Vol '000				Vol '000				Vol '000			
ASDA GP	8,200	Calbuque	432	Lomho	483	Royal Ind	2,700	Nov	179	130	45	18	0	0	0
Bay Area Natl	100	Can Union	192	Luz	1,100	Royl Bt Sct	1,500	Dec	205	160	120	78	50	29	2
BCT	1,800	Can Union	192	Macquarie	657	S&P Composite	393.12 (+0.23)	Jan	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	Tokyo		Feb	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	Nikkei Avge	24232.99 (-253.50)	Mar	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	Zurich: SKA Gen	499.9 (-2.6)	Apr	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	Hong Kong		May	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	Hang Seng	4230.91 (+5.73)	Jun	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	FT-SE Euro 100	1100.31 (-2.40)	Jul	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	Amsterdam:		Aug	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	FT Fixed Index	96.55 (+0.02)	Sep	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	FT Conv Sct	86.97 (-0.20)	Oct	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	SEAGV Volume	311.4M	Nov	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800	USM (Daiwa)	141.87 (+0.92)	Dec	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800			Jan	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
Anglian W	2,400	Empire Oil	200	Maxwell S	1,800			Feb	239	188	140	115	80	55	30
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Is 'pirate' broadside fair?

Concern about search and seizure orders has prompted the setting up of an enquiry by judges. Nicholas Stewart, QC, and Jennifer Lemkey report



Seized: a trading standards officer displays confiscated fakes. The Anton Piller order stops pirates destroying evidence

Anthony Chappell was a pirate in the sense that he made his money from piracy. His particular form of piracy was video cassette, which he made in breach of others' copyright and hired to members of his video club.

The club was run from Mr Chappell's home. On a Monday morning in March 1981 he received an unannounced visit from solicitors acting for the copyright owners. The solicitors were leading a team of five armed with a court order and wanting to search the premises and take away incriminating material.

That order was one of the now notorious Anton Piller orders, named after a 1975 case in which the Court of Appeal first approved their use. There has been such concern about their operation that the Judges' Council, a body including the most senior Supreme Court judges, recently announced the unusual step of a high-powered committee of enquiry to look at the problems.

Sometimes referred to as a search-and-seize order, an Anton Piller order is intended to preserve evidence, usually documents, that may be at risk of destruction or suppression. The thinking is that if there is a real risk of a dishonest defendant doing away with important evidence, a plaintiff who appears to have strong grounds for legal action should be able to prevent that.

For instance, the Japanese company Tokara, the originators of the novelty "dancing cans" seen in the West End of London, was concerned about the number of close copies being imported. Tokara had the registered design in the dancing cans, with a licence from Coca-Cola and Budweiser to use their cans. Tokara obtained a batch of

Anton Piller orders to have the imports seized, with the aim of cleaning up the market.

Although it is potentially available in many kinds of civil litigation, the order has been especially useful in cases of record, tape and video piracy. In that type of case, the importance to a plaintiff of safeguarding the evidence is matched by its vulnerability once the pirate knows that legal action is in the air.

The essence of an Anton Piller order is that, according to plan, the defendant, like Mr Chappell, suddenly finds the plaintiffs' solicitors on his doorstep clutching a writ and a High Court judge's order. The order directs him to allow them into his premises to search for and take away material relevant to the case against him.

If he refuses, they have no lawful right to enter, but that refusal is a breach of the order and puts the defendant at risk of a fine or imprisonment for contempt of court.

The idea behind the order may be sound, but there are serious difficulties. An Anton Piller order compels one person to allow another on to his property, in many cases his home. So it is a clear invasion of privacy. Moreover, if it is to be effective, there must be no warning. Accordingly, the

defendant is deprived of the right to put his side of the case before the court makes the order against him.

Mr Chappell took his case to the European Court of Human Rights, complaining of a breach of his right, under Article 8 of the European Human Rights Convention, to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. He lost. The same article can permit interference with that right for the protection of the rights of others - in his case the plaintiffs' right not to have their films unlawfully copied.

In 1989, the human rights court rejected Mr Chappell's complaint, despite concluding that the order had been carried out too oppressively. On the same occasion the police had entered Mr Chappell's property under a search warrant looking for obscene material. At one time 16 or 17 people were searching his premises under the warrant and the Anton Piller order.

Not only did the Strasbourg court disapprove of the way in which the order had been executed. The Court of Appeal in London had described what happened as "disturbing" and "unfortunate and regrettable". Despite the draconian na-

ture of the jurisdiction, English judges during the late 1970s and the 1980s seemed on occasions to stray from the principle that an Anton Piller order should be granted only in the most exceptional circumstances.

In the past year or two, however, the courts have developed a noticeably greater resistance to granting Anton Piller orders, coupled with some strongly expressed views about their nature and the way they work in practice.

Last November, Mr Justice Scott described Anton Piller orders as standing at the extremity of the court's jurisdiction. They involved "the hypocrisy of pretending that the entry and search are carried on because the owners of the premises have consented".

He was also fairly scathing about the practical operation of the standard requirement that before executing the order the plaintiffs' solicitors should explain it fairly and in every-day language.

This is no easy task when, as in that case, the order is complex and 14 pages long. In fact, an experienced solicitor consulted by the defendants misunderstood the legal effect of the order, with the result that his advice led his own clients to be in contempt.

An Anton Piller has been described by Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, as a "nuclear weapon". It is much loved by plaintiffs, sometimes for its intimidatory effect as much as for its usefulness. However, the four judges who comprise the new committee, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Donald Nicholls, particularly want to hear from people who have been on the receiving end of these orders.

There is at least one defendant, however, who is unlikely to respond to the committee's invitation to make representations. In the course of a search of his offices under an Anton Piller order, he snatched a telex from a file, then ran out of the building with one of his employees, chased the whole time by the plaintiffs' solicitor - not something the court would approve. When he was cornered in a bicycle shop, the defendant handed the telex to his employee, who ate it.

Full marks for loyalty, but a definite contempt of court! There is no inalienable right to eat the evidence.

● The authors are practising barristers.

Why the Crown must not be above the law

A BARRISTER was prosecuted in 1612 for contempt of court because he advised his client that the prerogative powers of the Crown were limited. This week the Court of Appeal is considering how far constitutional law has developed since the days of James I: can the Crown be in contempt for failing to honour an undertaking given to a judge?

In May, a citizen of Zaire sought leave to move for judicial review of the decision of Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to refuse him political asylum in Britain. The asylum seeker was already at Heathrow airport, awaiting removal from the country. The judge, Mr Justice Garland, understood that counsel for the Home Office had given an undertaking that the man would not be removed from the UK until the legal proceedings had been considered further. Unfortunately, at about the time the undertaking was given, the man was put on an aeroplane to Paris, where he was transferred to another flight, which took him back to Zaire. Proceedings were begun for contempt of court. In July, Mr Justice Simon Brown decided that it was a breach of the undertaking for the Home Office not to take steps to have the man taken off the aeroplane in Paris and returned to London. He concluded, however, that the courts lack coercive jurisdiction against the Crown, so the Home Office could not be found to have acted in contempt.

The relationship between the executive and the judiciary has always been a sensitive one. For Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the American Constitution, the judiciary was "the least dangerous branch" of government precisely because it "has no influence over either the sword or the purse". It has "neither force nor will but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for the efficacy of its judgments".

For this reason, President Andrew Jackson is said to have responded to a controversial judgment of Chief Justice Marshall of the US Supreme Court with the words: "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it."

The essential point for decision by the Court of Appeal is whether the many legislative and judicial statements concerning the inability of the judiciary to enforce orders against the Crown should inhibit the court from making a finding of contempt. If judges can make orders against ministers of the Crown for damages, declarations and mandamus, which compels the performance of a public duty, why should a court not rule that its processes have been

interfered with by the Crown and so a contempt has been committed? Enforcing orders may be impossible, but making findings poses less difficulty.

It is especially important to avoid recognising any Crown immunity in the context of contempt. As Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, explained during the *Spycatcher* litigation in 1987, contempt of court is a flexible doctrine that expands to further the vital object of preventing any impediment to the course of justice.

The contempt case is the latest in a series of recent disputes to raise difficult and important questions about judicial control over the executive. There are signs that some judges are unhappy with the traditional limitations on their powers. In 1990, the Court of Appeal declared that it has power to order a stay of an administrative decision of the executive pending the hearing of a judicial review application. In June, the Court of Appeal decided that the court can grant the remedy of *habeas corpus* to prevent the removal from Britain of an immigrant whose application for judicial review has yet to be heard. The Crown has shown itself prepared to abandon in some contexts what it has traditionally asserted to be special privileges.

In an important judgment in March, the Divisional Court agreed with the Crown that, contrary to the position adopted by the Crown until 1987, civil servants do have a contract of employment. At the end of the 19th century, Professor Dicey taught that the rule of law is incompatible with the exemption of officials or others from the duty of obedience to the law which governs other citizens. It is an offensive anachronism that a modern, democratic society, claiming to provide remedies for abuse of power, should contemplate permitting the executive and its officers to claim immunities because they represent the Crown.

There is a danger that if the courts have no jurisdiction over the executive in important respects, the executive will become complacent about complying with the law. Nothing encourages high standards in government so much as the fear of well publicised litigation.

The case of the asylum seeker from Zaire is the first occasion on which a government department has needed to argue that it is immune from liability for contempt of court. Lawyers concerned about the proper development of constitutional law will hope that the Court of Appeal ensures that it is also the last.

● The author is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



DAVID PANNICK
COUNSEL

Ice touch

WHEN Lee McIlwaine, a Nottingham Law School graduate, found that his appearance in the British Ice Dance Championships clashed with Nottingham Polytechnic's annual award ceremony, he resigned himself to missing his reward for four years' hard study. But he calculated without the iniquity of Professor Nigel Savage, head of the Law School. Professor Savage donated his robes and skates and presented Mr McIlwaine with his degree certificate during a break in the competition. Professor Savage, who declined to discard his suit for a Lurex one-piece, says: "We pride ourselves on taking a real interest in all our students and that extends to their graduation."

Lyle's law

SIR Nicholas Lyle, QC, the Solicitor-General, ruled out a no-fault compensation scheme last week. He told the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers that Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and he thought the case for no-fault compensation had not been made out. However, he supported the idea of structured settlements, in which victims receive payments throughout their lives instead of the traditional lump sum. This seemed to be the approach the professions needed to adopt, he said.

Green hard line

NEW ZEALAND has joined a growing list of countries that have enacted legislation imposing personal liability on managers of companies breaching environmental law. A new Resources Management Act introduces penalties of up to two years' jail or fines of up to £10,000 for acts not only of managers themselves but also of employees and contractors. The government believes the new measures will introduce an urgency that has previously been lacking from many companies' clean-up operations by making managers personally responsible. New criminal offences will include taking or using water without approval and discharging contaminants into water, ground or air. The

INNS AND OUTS

Hong Kong bill with a backlash

HONG KONG's bill of rights was intended ostensibly to protect human rights and civil liberties after the colony reverts to China in 1997. However, it has also produced a culture shock in an Asian territory where the concept of individual rights is not highly developed. A recent landmark ruling by the appeals court, for example, has undermined the whole basis of drugs enforcement practice in Hong Kong by sweeping away the presumption that any person in possession of more than 0.5

grams of narcotics or a key to a place where narcotics are kept is guilty of possession for the purposes of trafficking. This can carry a life sentence.

The new concept of "innocent until proved guilty" is now being seen by some as a charter for the protection of criminals at the expense of "social peace". Tension between supporters of the bill of rights and the old-style law enforcers used to the Crown's right to presume guilt is likely to increase as the implications unfold in the courts.

Harassed? How?

THE effects of the Judge Clarence Thomas debate have been felt around the globe - as far as Japan, where sexual harassment, or *seku hara*, was recognised in the public arena only about two years ago. The case that brought it to light was started by the editor of a small magazine who sued her boss for three million yen (£11,000) for sexual harassment after he spread rumours forcing her to quit her job. Many women say patting bottoms and talking about underwear are common practices in Japan and it is difficult to show that the law has been broken because people do not agree about what sexual harassment means. This year some Tokyo lawyers drew up a draft law intended to toughen up the sexual harassment law but it has virtually no support in the government or opposition.

What a hoot

IN the new Soviet Union even Stalin's nose seems to be left unprotected. Edward Pirkov was arrested on March 17 for

breaking off parts of the dictator's nose from the bust that guards his grave in Red Square. The charges have now been dropped. After the failed coup the prosecutor felt that to bring Pirkov to trial when statues of Lenin and Stalin are being scrapped in all the republics was the height of hypocrisy.



Smart move

AMERICAN lawyers have joined a coterie of professionals including surgeons, property developers and accountants who have turned to new methods of protecting their assets against civil damages suits in the face of rocketing insurance premiums. Five hundred thousand civil damages suits are filed every year in US courts and to escape the consequences more and more of those at risk are hiding their assets in off-shore "asset

protection trusts". The trusts, which were first set up in the Isle of Man, operate as partnerships in which the donor holds a small controlling stake while the rules about who gets access to the assets are strictly drawn. A Colorado firm which pioneered APTs and has invested \$2 billion in them for 400 clients has defended 24 law suits which were all settled out of court for around 15 per cent of the original value of the claim.

Mind-jogger

CLEMENT NOEL, the retired solicitor who mailed 20,000 solicitors' offices in England and Wales this week about his new company, Professional Memories, a computerised service to remind solicitors of key dates, has written to the Law Society president, Philip Ely, pointing out that in Australia an estimated 64 per cent of negligence claims are "time claims" - based on missed dates. If his scheme is taken up, it has the potential for reducing the £160 million to be paid by solicitors this year in professional indemnity premiums, he says.

Out of court

ALTERNATIVE dispute resolution (ADR) was boosted in the United States last week when more than 150 law firms signed a statement promising to encourage their clients to choose alternatives to litigation.

Career call

STUDENTS are still looking for jobs in the law, despite the recession. The Law Fair 1992 is predicting a big turnout for its recruitment event at the Business Design Centre in London on February 6 and 7. The fair is organised by London University's career advisory service and sponsored by *The Times*, the Law Society, the Bar and, this time, the Institute of Legal Executives. Last year it attracted 5,300 students and hosted stands from nearly 70 law firms, ten educational institutions and 19 other organisations, including the Government Legal Service, and the Crown Prosecution Service. Details from Vivien Charvonia on 071-383 2804.

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Do you think your solicitor is charging too much? Some solicitors in the City now charge more than £300 an hour, so it is not surprising that some clients wonder whether they are always getting value for money.

If a client suspects his bill is exorbitantly steep, he can usually have it yested in one or two ways. The first route, which is available only when the legal work does not involve court proceedings, is to obtain a remuneration certificate from the Law Society. By this method, the Law Society will examine the solicitor's file on the matter before reviewing the client's bill free of charge to ensure that the fee is fair.

Two conditions must be satisfied before a remuneration certificate is granted. First, when the request is made, the bill must remain unpaid. If the solicitor has already deducted his costs from funds held on account for the client, the bill will be treated by the Law Society as having been paid only if the client has given permission for such a deduction. Second, the request must be made by the client no more than a month after the solicitor makes the client aware of his right to a remuneration certificate.

Once the client has asked for a remuneration certificate, the solicitor must complete an application form and forward it together

Two methods are available to clients who wish to query solicitors' bills that seem steep, but goodwill is at risk, Ian Hunter says

with the relevant file to the Law Society. A client's demand for a remuneration certificate is a nightmare for a busy solicitor. Complying with such a request is a time-consuming exercise, for which a bill cannot be submitted.

A client who values his solicitor's advice and guidance should be aware of the damage such a request may have on any future relationship.

The advantage for the client who opts for a remuneration certificate is that he has nothing to lose apart from but his solicitor's goodwill. The Law Society cannot authorise an increase in the bill even though it has the power to reduce it. The solicitor's only comfort is that after he has told his client of the right to a remuneration certificate, he can charge interest on an outstanding bill, backdated to one month after the date on which the bill was delivered.

About 4,000 remuneration certificates are granted every year and bills are reduced in about a third of

Failure to give adequate information on costs frequently gives rise to complaints'

cases. The Law Society was said at one stage to have considered withdrawing this right but it has since affirmed its commitment to a remuneration certificate.

The alternative method of checking whether a bill is reasonable is to ask for it to be "taxed" at a hearing, presided over by a court official. At this hearing, the solicitor's aim is to defend his bill. He must convince the official that the time spent on the matter was reasonable and that any specific items of expenditure incurred were justifiable. The advantage of taxation is that, unlike remuneration certificates, bills incurred in court proceedings can also be queried. The disadvantage is that if the bill is reduced by less than a fifth, the client will have to pay the solicitor's taxation hearing costs.

The Law Society has recognised the potentially explosive nature of disputes over costs between solicitors and clients. To minimise the likelihood of disputes developing, last February it revised its set of

standards covering information given to clients about costs. These standards acknowledge that "failure to give adequate information on costs frequently gives rise to complaints". They go on to warn that "unreasonable failure to advise a client properly on some matters, particularly on the risks as to costs in litigation or the availability of legal aid, may well give rise to a claim for negligence".

The solicitor is reminded of his duty to keep the client informed about costs and of the requirements, on taking instructions, to inform the client of the likely cost of handling the matter. The discussion should also cover how the costs will be met, including whether they may be covered by legal aid or insurance. If a level of fees is agreed or an estimate is supplied, details should be confirmed in writing.

A City law firm, Fox Williams, has gone further. It recently issued a brochure entitled "A Particular Approach to Controlling Legal Fees", which sets out guidelines for the client on how to make cost-effective use of the firm's services. Ronnie Fox, a senior partner, comments: "In my experience, clients are happy to pay for a high standard of service if they are kept fully informed of the level of costs being incurred."

• The author is a practising solicitor



Western members of the new Warsaw pact

As it moves towards a market economy, the Polish government is insistent that foreign businesses must capitalise on local expertise

A theme running through much of modern Polish history — heroic, but mostly unsuccessful, resistance to foreign oppression — is re-emerging in a new form. Can Poland introduce Western-style capitalism without surrendering itself to foreign ownership? Can the transition be achieved through native expertise rather than excessive reliance on foreign consultants?

For the Western lawyers, accountants and management consultants setting up in Warsaw, these are crucial issues. Because the pace and direction of reform are still uncertain after the inconclusive recent election, the British professionals installed around the capital are having to play a diplomatic game. The Polish administration has indicated, for example, that businesses must show commitment to

the country. That means opening an office, recruiting and training substantial numbers of local staff, and making an effort to understand Polish conditions.

One clear policy decision is that privatisation should be on a "sectoral", or industry, basis. Legal and other advisers will be appointed, through competitive tender, to analyse the issues, and then devise and implement the privatisation strategy.

KPMG, Revicon Limited (as it is known in Poland) has been appointed to look into the sugar refining industry. Like others among the big six accountancy firms, KPMG has a legal practice of five Polish lawyers operating

from within its office. As Janusz Tymczenko, one of the KPMG legal advisers, pointed out, the problem with Polish law is that it is being changed in haste in a piecemeal way. Contradictions and inconsistencies may create problems in the future for foreign investors. Keeping up with the changes is a full-time job.

As a result, there is no shortage of work for the handful of London law firms in Warsaw. For example, in the offices of the solicitors Nabarro Nathanson, in the old Communist party headquarters, Michael Davis says that the challenge is to find the resources to deal with the volume of work coming in. Nabarro shares its office with

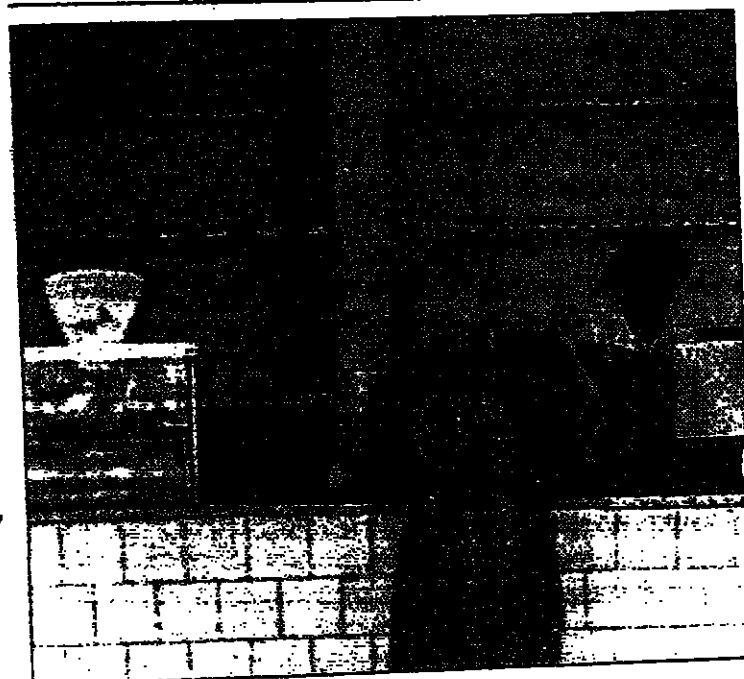
its American ally, Weil Gotshal & Manges, and has one American and one British partner as well as three full-time Polish lawyers. By combining Western and local talent in this way, Mr Davis says, the firm has the skills to manage a large transaction as well as weaving its way through complex Polish law. American or European joint venture investors will be reassured that their legal advisers have a grip on both systems.

Because Poland is in a state of transition, people such as Michael Davis and Richard Turner see much more of senior government officials than they would do in the UK. Cultivating the right contacts is a vital part of the work.

Partly for this reason accountants Moore Stephens, which have a staff of 15 in Poland, appointed as their executive director Alicja Kornasiewicz, a former member of the Polish parliament.

Despite having been on attachment to Linklaters in London, Mrs Kornasiewicz seems to prefer consortia of Western experts. Others may disagree. "My view is that the Poles prefer working with Anglo firms," says Leon Pacyński, a solicitor with Allen & Overy, the London firm that has been working on the privatisation of the paper and pulp industry with Hambros and Coopers & Lybrand. "The Poles like short legal documents which are to the point. English lawyers can do that. American lawyers often cannot."

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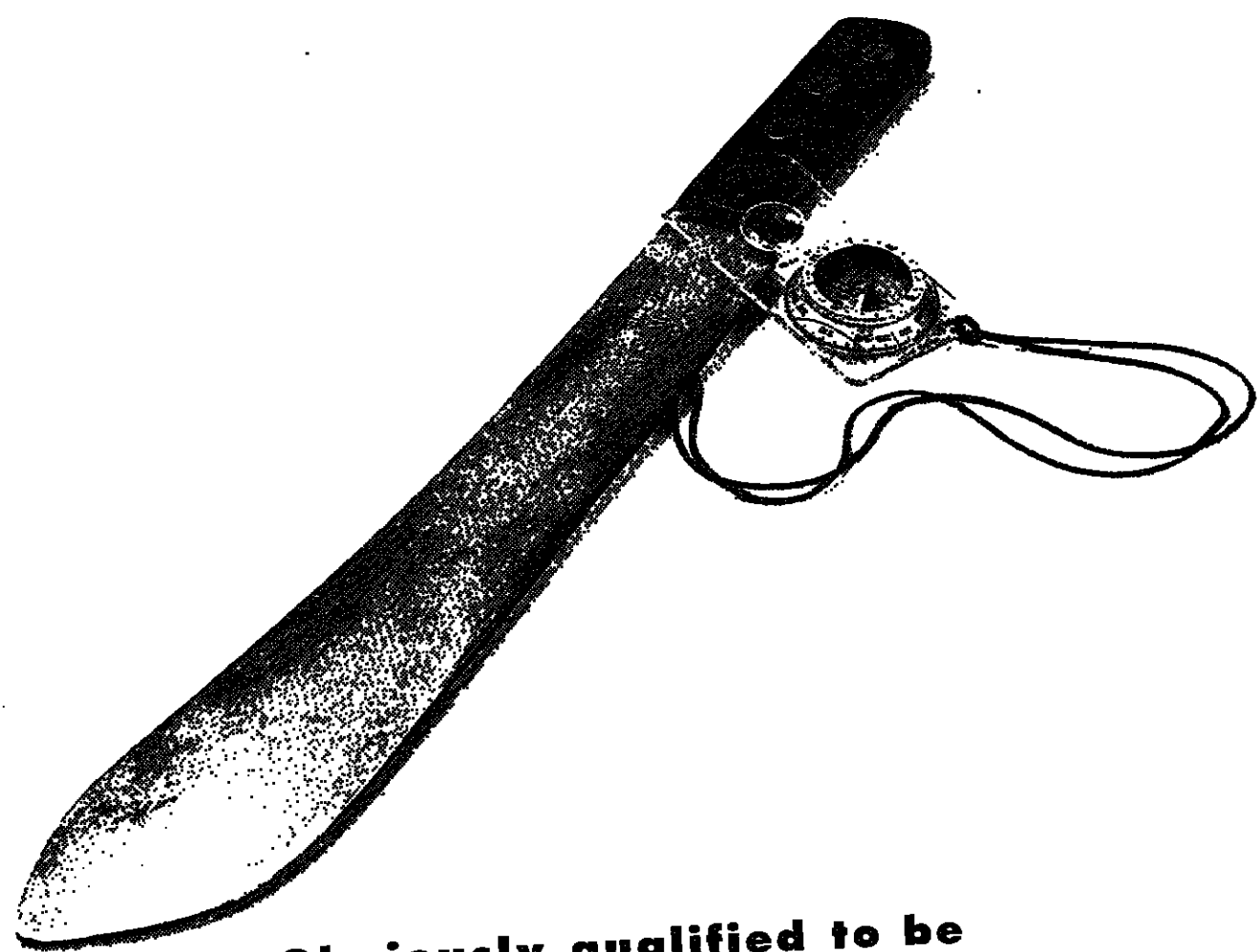
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Human Rights Law Report

Britain not in breach of Convention over deportation of Tamil refugees

Vilvarajah and Others v United Kingdom (Case No 45/1990/336/302-6) Before J. Crompton, President and Judges B. Walsh, Sir Vincent Evans, R. Macdonald, C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, I. Fehér, R. Peckham and A. N. Loizou (Judgment October 30)

Although the right to political asylum was not contained in the European Convention on Human Rights or its protocols, the expulsion by a contracting state of an asylum seeker might give rise to an issue under article 3, and hence engage the responsibility of that state under the Convention.

In the instant case, the European Court of Human Rights held that substantial grounds had not been established for believing that the applicants would be exposed to a real risk of being subjected to article 3 treatment on their return.

In addition, judicial review proceedings provided an effective remedy, as guaranteed by article 13 of the Convention, in relation to the applicants' complaint under article 3. English courts were able to review the Home Secretary's refusal to grant asylum with a view to determining whether it was tainted with illegality, irrationality or procedural impropriety.

The case arose out of a decision by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to expel five Sri Lankan nationalists to Sri Lanka.

The applicants, Messrs Vilvarajah, Skandaram, Sivakumaran, Navaratnam and Rasalingam, were Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka who came to the United Kingdom at different

times in 1987 and applied for political asylum under the UN Convention of 1951 relating to the status of refugees.

They contended that they had a genuine fear of persecution if returned to Sri Lanka where they and their families had suffered from the excesses of the Sri Lankan army against the Tamil community.

Their applications were considered and rejected by the secretary of state. Judicial review of the secretary of state's decisions was sought but was ultimately rejected by the House of Lords (*The Times* December 17, 1987; [1988] AC 958).

The applicants were removed to Sri Lanka in February 1988. The first, second and third applicants claimed that they were arrested, detained and, save the first, ill-treated by members of the Indian peace-keeping force (IPKF). The fourth claimed that he was arrested and beaten by the police.

On March 13, 1989 the applicants' appeal against their removal was upheld by the adjudicator. They were subsequently allowed to return to the UK in October 1989 and granted exceptional leave to remain until March 22, 1993.

The applicants lodged their applications with the European Commission of Human Rights in 1987. On July 7, 1989 the Commission, having given the case a preliminary examination, declared the case admissible.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on May 8, 1990 establishing the facts of the case and expressing the opinion by a vote of 7 to 7, with a casting vote

by the president, that there had been no violation of article 13, and by 13 votes to 1, that there had been a violation of article 13.

The case was referred to the Court on July 11, 1990 by the Commission and on July 16, 1990 by the UK Government. In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held:

1. Alleged breach of article 3
A. Applicability to expulsions
The Court observed that contracting states had the right, as a matter of well-established international law and subject to their treaty obligations, including article 3, to control the entry, residence and expulsion of aliens; see the *Mous Taslim* judgment (*The Times* May 8, 1991; Series A No 193, p.19, paragraph 43) and the authorities cited therein.

Moreover, it had to be noted that the right to political asylum was not contained in either the Convention or its protocols.

In its *Cruz Varas* judgment (*The Times* May 8, 1991; Series A No 201, p.28, paragraphs 69 and 70) the Court held that expulsion by a contracting state of an asylum seeker might give rise to an issue under article 3, and hence engage the responsibility of that state under the Convention, where substantial grounds had been shown for believing that the person concerned faced a real risk of being subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the country to which he was returned.

B. Application of article 3
(a) Assessing risk of ill-treatment

In the *Cruz Varas* judgment the Court noted the following principles relevant to its assess-

ment of the risk of ill-treatment (Series A No 201, pp.29-31, paragraphs 75-76 and 83):

1. In determining whether substantial grounds had been shown for believing the existence of a real risk of treatment contrary to article 3 the Court would assess the issue in the light of all the material placed before it or, if necessary, material obtained *proprio motu*.
2. Further, since the nature of the contracting states' responsibility under article 3 in such cases lay in the act of exposing an individual to the risk of ill-treatment, the existence of the risk must be assessed primarily with reference to those facts which were known or ought to have been known to the contracting state at the time of the expulsion. The Court was not precluded, however, from having regard to information which came to light subsequent to the expulsion. That might be of value in confirming or refuting the appreciation that had been made otherwise of an applicant's fears.

3. Ill-treatment must attain a minimum level of severity if it was to fall within the scope of article 3. The assessment of that minimum was, in the nature of things, relative. It depended on all the circumstances of the case.

The Court's examination of the existence of a risk of ill-treatment in breach of article 3 at the relevant time had necessarily to be a rigorous one in view of the absolute character of that provision and the fact that it ensured one of the fundamental values of the democratic societies making up the Council of Europe; see the *Soering* judgment (*The Times* July 8, 1990; Series A No 161).

It followed from the above principles that the examination of that issue in the present case had to focus on the foreseeable consequences of the removal of the applicants to Sri Lanka in the light of the general situation there in February 1988 as well as on their personal circumstances.

(b) Assessment in instant case
In the light of the Commission's report and the observations thereon by the applicants and the UK Government it seemed clear that by February 1988 there had been an improvement in the situation in the north and east of Sri Lanka, the main areas of disturbance.

The IPKF had, in accordance with the accord of July 1987, taken over from the Sinhalese dominated security forces in those areas and the major fighting at Jaffna had ended.

Moreover, under a UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme large numbers of Tamils were repatriated voluntarily to Sri Lanka in February 1988.

The evidence before the Court concerning the background of the applicants, as well as the general situation, did not establish that their personal position was any worse than the general situation of other members of the Tamil community or other young male Tamils who had been returning to their country.

Since the situation was still unsettled, there existed the possibility that they might be detained and ill-treated as appeared to have occurred previously in the cases of some of the applicants. A mere possibility of ill-treatment, however, in such circumstances, was not in itself sufficient to give rise to a breach of article 3.

As regards the second, third and fourth applicants who were

ill-treated following their return, there existed no special distinguishing features in their cases that could or ought to have enabled the secretary of state to foresee that they would be ill-treated on their return.

In addition, the removal of the fourth and fifth applicants without identity cards did not expose them to a real risk of treatment beyond the threshold of article 3.

The Court also attached importance to the careful consideration of each case by the secretary of state as well as the knowledge and experience of the UK authorities in dealing with large numbers of asylum seekers from Sri Lanka.

In the light of those considerations, the Court found that substantial grounds had not been established for believing that the applicants would be exposed to a real risk of being subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment within the meaning of article 3 on their return to Sri Lanka in February 1988.

Accordingly, there had been no breach of article 3.

II. Alleged breach of article 13
Article 13 guaranteed the availability of a remedy at national level to enforce the substance of the Convention rights and freedoms in whatever form they could happen to be secured in the domestic legal order.

Its effect was thus to require the provision of a domestic remedy allowing the competent national authority both to deal with the substance of the relevant Convention complaint and to grant appropriate relief; see, *inter alia*, the *Soering* judgment (Series A No 161, p.47, paragraph 120).

However, article 13 did not go

so far as to require any particular form of remedy, contracting states being afforded a margin of discretion in conforming to their obligations under this provision.

In its *Soering* judgment (*loc. cit.*, pp.47-48, paragraphs 121 and 124) the Court considered whether an effective remedy in relation to Mr Soering's complaint.

It was satisfied that the English courts could review the reasonableness of an extradition decision in the light of the kind of factors relied on by the applicant before the Convention institutions in the context of article 3.

In particular it noted that in judicial review proceedings a court could rule the exercise of executive discretion unlawful on the ground that it was tainted with illegality, irrationality or procedural impropriety and that the test of irrationality on the basis of the *Wednesbury* principles ([1948] 1 KB 223) was that no reasonable secretary of state could have made an order for surrender in the circumstances.

Further, according to the United Kingdom Government, a court had jurisdiction to quash a challenged decision to send a fugitive to a country where it was established that there was a serious risk of inhuman or degrading treatment, on the ground that in all the circumstances of the case the decision was one that no reasonable secretary of state could take.

The Court did not consider that there were any material differences between the present case and the *Soering* case to lead it to reach a different conclusion in that respect.

It was not in dispute that the English courts were able in asylum cases to review the secretary of state's refusal to grant asylum with reference to the same principles of judicial review as considered in the *Soering* case and to quash a decision in similar circumstances if that they had done so in decided cases.

Indeed, the courts had stressed their special responsibility to subject administrative decisions in that area to the most anxious scrutiny where an applicant's life or liberty could be at risk.

Moreover, the practice was that an asylum seeker would not be removed from the United Kingdom until proceedings were complete once he had obtained leave to apply for judicial review.

While it was true that there were limitations to the powers of the courts in judicial review proceedings, the Court was of the opinion that those powers, exercisable as they were by the highest tribunals in the land, did provide an effective degree of control over the decisions of the administrative authorities in asylum cases and were sufficient to satisfy the requirements of article 13.

The applicants thus had available to them an effective remedy in relation to their complaint under article 3. There was accordingly no breach of article 13.

For those reasons, the court held:

1. By eight votes to one, Judge Russo dissenting, that there had been no violation of article 3.

2. By seven votes to two, Judges Walsh and Russo dissenting, that there had been no violation of article 13.

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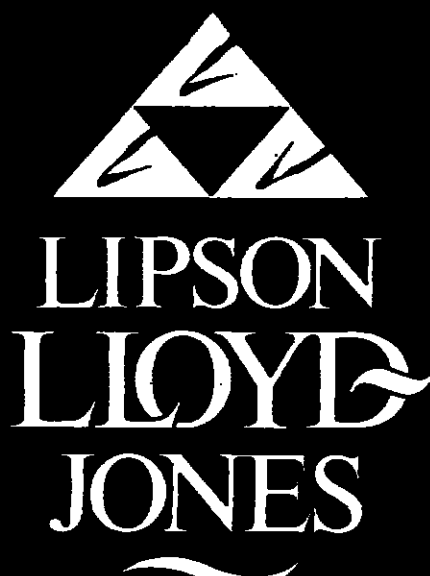
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For the successful candidate, the County Council is prepared to negotiate the final form of the contract of employment which could be either for a fixed or on a permanent basis. Full information about this post is available in an Information Pack which can be obtained by calling Bristol (0272) 298565 (answerphone on this number after office hours). Please quote reference number PPS/1/2.

Completed applications to be received no later than 4.00pm on 12th December 1991. Applications are particularly welcome from women, black people and disabled people who are currently under-represented at this level in the workforce.

Assistant Group Secretary
Quoted PLC Major Opportunity

Our client, an expanding, strategically acquisitive and successful quoted PLC with international interests and a turnover in excess of £300m is seeking an Assistant Group Secretary. Based at the Group's headquarters in West Yorkshire and reporting to the Group Company Secretary, you will be involved in providing a full range of secretarial services.

In addition to the statutory requirements for company records, you will be closely involved in pensions, property investments, trademarks, legal contracts, litigation, corporate acquisitions and disposals, and in providing general support to Group companies and the Board.

You must be a qualified company secretary or lawyer, ideally with a degree, probably aged 27 to 32. You must possess excellent company secretarial experience gained with a profit orientated organisation. You must be highly motivated with strong communication skills and the ability to liaise at all levels within the organisation.

This important role carries an excellent benefits package and has exceptional career development potential.

If you are interested, telephone Roger Webb FCA or Stuart Adamson FCA on 0532 451212 or send your CV in confidence, quoting reference number 773 to Adamson & Partners Limited, 10 Lisbon Square, Leeds LS1 4LY. Fax number 0532 420802.

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Our clients are a publicly quoted leisure group with a turnover in excess of £80 million. Following a restructuring of the Company Secretarial department, they now wish to recruit an Assistant Secretary to undertake a wide variety of company secretarial and administrative duties based at the Group Headquarters in the East Midlands.

Reporting to the Group Secretary, you will act as Company Secretary to 65 subsidiaries and will be responsible for the Group's insurances (including claims), private health insurance, a fleet of 120 vehicles, and the employee share scheme. You will also liaise with external pension administrators, and assist the Group Secretary on matters affecting the quoted parent company.

Locally, you will be a qualified Chartered Secretary (although finalists will be considered) and you will have gained relevant experience in a commercial environment.

The Group operates in a fast-moving, competitive industry and you will therefore be expected to be flexible in your approach and be able to work under pressure with minimal supervision.

Remuneration will be in the region of £18,000 plus benefits. Please send your c.v. to Fiona Burdell, or telephone her for further information.

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c£28,000 + Car & Relocation Expenses

Yorkshire Television, the ITV contractor for the Yorkshire region which has recently been awarded the Channel 3 licence for the region, has an excellent opportunity in its Leeds based Legal and Company Secretarial Department.

Reporting to the Legal Director/Company Secretary, who is a solicitor, the successful candidate will be involved in providing a full legal service to all divisions of the Company on aspects of law affecting the Company's business, drafting of commercial contracts, compliance with the Industry code of practice, instructing outside solicitors on litigation matters and general company secretarial work.

We are looking for a solicitor or barrister with at least three years' post qualification experience.

An excellent range of benefits will include contributory pension scheme, relocation expenses, where appropriate, and private health insurance.

Please write in confidence, for an application form or, if you prefer, send your c.v. to:

Mrs Stefany Raee,
Personnel Executive,
Yorkshire Television Limited,
The Television Centre,
Leeds LS3 1JS.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Pitts-Tucker & Co
Solicitors, Holborn WC2

Wanted:- an experienced Legal Conveyancing secretary with a solid work record to help with heavy case load, must be able to work effectively under pressure.

Knowledge of Wang WP essential. Competitive salary for the right applicant. Please send CV to Miss Ruth Downey, to arrange an immediate interview.

Pitts-Tucker & Co., Aviation House,
129 Kingsway, London, WC2

071 606 8844

Radio calls those who listen closely

Starting a career in radio broadcasting needs determination. Each year the BBC receives 90,000 unsolicited job applications at a time when advances in technology, the economic recession and a quota of 25 per cent production by independent companies are causing it to shed staff. Redundancies have increased the pool of freelancers, but all is not doom and gloom.

"There are more than 100 local and independent radio stations who are always on the lookout for new talent," says Julie Hill, a training consultant in radio techniques. "The industry has been hit by recession but now is the time to train and to gain experience."

A number of further education colleges, polytechnics and universities provide media and communications courses, though there is little specific training for radio. A survey in 1990 by the Institute of Manpower Studies found that few people working in broadcasting had been formally trained. The increasing use of contractors and self-employed workers, however, has led the ITV Association to set up a training scheme for freelance staff. On a wider scale, the broadcast, film, and video industry is developing standards in line with the National Vocational Qualifications framework in response to changing employment patterns in broadcasting.

You can land a job in broadcasting if you persevere, writes Widget Finn

Meanwhile, how does an aspiring broadcaster get training or experience until a formal training system is set up? A degree or training in journalism is a good basis, says Ms Hill, because local radio work often involves research. The first step, though, is to become familiar with the medium. "Use your dial and learn to listen to different styles of radio," Ms Hill says. "Local BBC stations produce mainly speech-based programmes aimed at older listeners, while commercial radio has an audience of 18 to 40-year-olds."

She says it is important to show commitment by getting as much experience as possible before applying for a job. Many universities have a campus radio and college magazines offer opportunities for experience.

Janet Gerslick, who presents her own weekend programme on Capital Gold radio, strongly recommends hospital radio. "Hospital radio is an excellent training ground, because you have a captive audience and can make mistakes in a safe environment,"

she says. Ms Gerslick entered broadcasting through the Royal Free Hospital radio in London.

Most large hospitals have a radio service run by dedicated amateurs. Volunteers get the opportunity to handle broadcasting equipment and put together well-balanced programmes.

Locally-based and funded community radio also offers an opportunity to get on air without professional pressures.

Ms Hill says that a demo tape is the best way to apply for a job in radio. "Listen to the programme you want to target and plan your tape to fit the style. The news and adverts have to be read straight, but you can put your own personality into the weather and the traffic news. And make them fun. Someone listens to all demo tapes for 30 seconds, but if it has not grabbed the attention by then it goes into the bulk eraser."

Ms Gerslick believes opportunities are there for those who persevere. "Get into local radio, even at a very low level, and show your commitment by coming in at weekends and when nobody else wants to, and by learning from the professionals," she says. Then, as happened to her, you will be in the right place when a stand-in is needed for a presenter on holiday.

Even volunteers on the smallest local radio station can sometimes



Mark Eccleston: 'When you're alone in a room, you learn to develop your own style and establish a rapport with an unseen audience'

reach a wide audience. Radio Moray Firth, with 12,000 listeners, ran a feature by an amateur broadcaster which was picked up by BBC Glasgow, London's LBC, which is owned by an Australian consortium, repeated it and within days the feature was on Australian radio.

For Mark Eccleston, aged 26, a production assistant with BBC Radio Newcastle, the only typical thing about each working day is the variety. "We have to be ready to do anything," he says.

In one morning, he interviewed a Rolls Royce enthusiast, the

winner of a young engineer award, and a woman who was hooked on Tupperware parties. In between, he was planning the items which would go into his own Saturday morning magazine programme, aimed at a youth audience.

As a student at Edinburgh University, Mr Eccleston belonged to the university television society and wrote for a student magazine. After graduating, he wrote to radio stations. During a spell on Radio Tyneside, which is broadcast in four local hospitals, he learnt valuable lessons while going round the wards getting record

requests. "You get used to talking at a microphone when you are alone in a room surrounded by knobs and dials, and you learn to develop your own style and establish a rapport with an unseen audience," he says.

Mr Eccleston was offered a job at BBC Radio Newcastle as a freelance production assistant. After six months, he was given a contract and was soon being asked to stand in as a presenter. Now with his own programme, he earns about £13,000 a year.

Network radio is the next career step for many local radio broad-

casters. It is vital to have a sense for radio and the spoken word. Mr Eccleston says: "You must be able to look at a story or an idea and know how to translate it into entertaining broadcasting."

Further information: Radio Academy, PO Box 452, 3 Langham Place, London W1A 4SZ; Corporate Recruitment, BBC Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA; National Association of Hospital Broadcasters, Milne House, Norfolk Square, London W1A 1RF (071-402 8813); Community Radio Association, 119 Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SF; Women's Radio Group, 90 de Beauvoir Road, London N1 4BN (071-241 3729).

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826

HACKNEY ENTERPRISE INTO EUROPE

requires
TWO EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS
SALARY c£23,000

HACKNEY ENTERPRISE INTO EUROPE is a major new public/private sector initiative designed to promote the export of Hackney based goods and services to European markets.

The project has two key posts: One will concentrate on generating contacts overseas, the other will focus on work with selected local firms with export potential.

We are looking for two exceptional people with broad-ranging business, communication and export management skills as they apply to smaller firms. You will need to be aware of current European legislation, have a working knowledge of at least one European language, and have experience of working in multi-racial inner city communities.

For further information and an application form

Telephone 071 490 5249

or write to
Hackney Enterprise into Europe
Hackney EDU, 161 City Road,
London EC1V 1NR.

Closing date: 29th November 1991.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM ROYAL HOSPITAL ROAD, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 4HT

DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANT (Curator Grade F: £10,551 - £14,719 plus London weighting of £1750)

A Documentation Assistant is required, initially for a period of one year, to work as part of the busy Department of Computer Services at the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

The Department operates a Prime mini-computer with a MAGUS software dedicated to documenting our extensive Collections. In addition, the Department also supports a substantial Apple Macintosh network, and is responsible for the development and maintenance of audio-visual and interactive multimedia displays throughout the Museum.

Duties will include assisting in the development of the Museum's computerized Collections Database, the preparation and collation of existing documentation for transfer onto the database, data-entry and editing and assisting the Head of Computer Services with routine systems administration.

If you have proven computer skills, either in systems administration or as a systems user, and would like to broaden your experience within a National Museum dedicated to the study and interpretation of the British and Indian Armies, then contact the Personnel Officer in writing.

The National Army Museum is an equal opportunity employer.



DIRECTOR OF FUND RAISING

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children has cared for London's children for over 250 years. Formerly known as the Foundling Hospital, we have pioneered new services and developed our work to meet the needs of some of today's most disadvantaged children and young people.

We plan to respond to the steadily increasing demands being placed on our services and need to raise an additional £800,000 a year. We have always relied on voluntary funds: Hogarth and Handel were amongst our earliest benefactors. Today we are recruiting a Director of Fund Raising responsible for establishing a new Fund Raising Department.

Based in Central London, this Director will report to the Foundation's Director and Secretary. The remuneration package is negotiable and will reflect the responsibility of the position.

For further information, please contact Elisabeth Selous, Redmond Mullin Ltd, 9 Fisher Street, Laines, East Sussex BN17. Tel: 0273 480367 Fax: 0273 477160.

The Thomas Coram Foundation is an equal opportunities employer.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE & PROJECT MANAGER

Cornwall Community Healthcare Trust
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Health Authority
A CHALLENGING JOB IN A MOST ATTRACTIVE AREA
Starting salary negotiable within range £40,000 - £50,000.
With benefits

The Chief Executive and Project Manager will be required to develop, for the Cornwall Community Healthcare Trust and the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Health Authority, a strategy for a merger in April 1993 of the existing Trust (2,000 staff and a budget of £30 million) with the Eldercare and Mental Health Directly Managed Unit (1,500 staff and a budget of £34 million), and may expect to become the Chief Executive of the new, much larger Trust.

The Trust, based on St Austell, has 11 community hospitals within the County, and the Unit 8 hospitals including one major institution. The Chief Executive will be responsible for the overall management of the Trust and the Unit and must achieve the best possible standards of services and performance within policy, financial and contractual limits which will need to be carried forward into the new Trust.

The successful candidate will have:

- ★ a proven record in senior management in a substantial organisation,
- ★ the ability to lead decisively and to communicate effectively,
- ★ highly developed skills in strategic and organisational planning,
- ★ diplomatic qualities,
- ★ an innovative mind,
- ★ and a commitment to the National Health Service.

Experience in the Healthcare field is desirable but not essential.

Further details about the post can be obtained from:

Mrs Maureen Lovesey
Chairman's Office
Cornwall Community Healthcare Trust
Portsmouth Road
St Austell
Cornwall PL26 6AD Tel: 0726 68232

Candidates wishing to discuss the position may telephone either Sir Godfrey Milton-Thompson, Chairman of the Community Healthcare Trust (0726 68232) or Mr Ron Spencer, Chief Executive of Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Health Authority (0872 74242 ext 7001).

Letters of application, with a curriculum vitae, must reach Mrs Lovesey by Friday, 29 November, interviews will be held in second week in December.

THE ST GEORGE'S GROUP CONTRACTS MANAGER

Job Share
Salary: c £26,000pa

The St George's Group provides a full range of acute and community services within a network of three hospitals and health centres/clinics, with a contract portfolio of £127m.

The Role
To be principally involved in the securing, maintaining and monitoring of service contracts for the St George's Group with its purchasers. This will include working closely with our Service Centre and Service Delivery Unit Teams, to further develop and specify the requirements of contracts and the specifications, the negotiation of contracts and the monitoring of patient activity.

Reporting to the Director of Service Development the post will require involvement with key members of Finance, Information and Patient Services departments.

The Person
Applicants need to have developed communication skills, with confidence and credibility to influence and negotiate at all levels. A degree of marketing business management experience in the desirable, as would equivalent experience in the NHS or private sector. The post is offered on a part-time basis as part of a job share with the current Contract Manager.

For an informal discussion please contact either the current post-holder, Liz Temple, Contract Manager, on 081-672 1255, ext 51618, or an Assistant Director of Service on 081-672 1255, ext 53602.

Development form and further details are available from: Human Resources Department, The St George's Hospital, Grosvenor Wing, St George's Hospital, London SW17 0QT. Tel: 081-724 2585 (ansaphone) quoting Ref: 337.

Closing date: November 21, 1991.

We aim to hold interviews during week commencing November 25, 1991.

GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
ESTATE AND CAPITAL
PLANNING
c£24,000 plus PRP

This key post provides a real opportunity for career development both in capital planning/facilities management and in estate management.

Your background will be surveying, town planning or estate management, and you will have:

- an enquiring mind and be a strategic thinker
- proven ability to translate strategy into action
- familiarity with residential management, project management and institutional decision making

For an informal discussion, please call either Peter Hindley, Director of Estate, or Natalie Robinson, Deputy Director, on 071-405 9200 ext 5208.

Further details available from Personnel at Great Ormond Street on 071-828 8606 (24 hours recruitment line). Please quote reference TM58) to where concise CVs (including the names of two referees) should be returned by 25th November 1991.

Interviews will be on 11th December 1991.



FRENCHAY HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Frenchay Healthcare Services have been successful in obtaining Trust status as part of the second wave of applicants. The Shadow Trust Board is seeking an innovative and highly motivated Chief Executive to lead the organisation and head up the management team.

The Chief Executive will be required to ensure that the benefits of NHS Trust status are used to enhance the high quality services currently provided. The role will be challenging and the Chief Executive will be expected to add to the reputation of this major healthcare provider by:

- Maximising the potential of the services to provide excellent care for our patients, their GPs and major purchasers.
- Promoting research and development and training programmes to ensure that the best possible care is available at all times.

The services offered by the Trust include, general community, general psychiatry and general acute medical and general surgical services supporting a population of circa 250,000, together with specialist and nationally renowned surgical, medical and psychiatric services providing sub-regional and supra-regional care. The income of the Trust is £79 million and the number of staff employed is 4,500.

Candidates will be expected to have proven experience in the management of a large and complex organisation and in delivering a quality service within the resources allocated. Leadership qualities, determination, sound communication skills and an ability to set and achieve goals in an ever changing environment will be essential in this demanding post.

The package offered reflects the importance of this post. Information packs will be available from Mr Keith Daymont, Assistant Director of Personnel, Frenchay Healthcare NHS Trust, Beckspool Road, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1ND. Telephone (0272) 701070 ext 240.

Applications in the form of a Curriculum Vitae should be sent to Mr C Williams, Chairman, Frenchay Healthcare NHS Trust, Beckspool Road, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1ND who will be pleased to discuss the post with any interested candidates on ext 233.

Closing date for applications will be 2nd December 1991.

Interviews will be held in early December.

EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE

Chief Executive and Clerk's Department

Chief Solicitor

£34,872 p.a.

Truro

The coming year will be a challenging one for the new Chief Solicitor. Reporting directly to the Chief Executive, he or she will be responsible for managing the Council's in-house legal services, in particular preparing it for the challenge of compulsory competitive tendering.

The successful applicant will be a qualified solicitor with at least five years post-qualification experience gained within local government. Previous budgetary and staff management experience is essential as is the ability to communicate effectively and to tackle legal problems in an imaginative and creative way. The benefits on offer include car leasing scheme, re-location package in appropriate cases and working in an area of outstanding beauty.

For an informal discussion please contact Mr Gerrard, current postholder on extn. 3109.

An information pack and application form are available from: Miss S Tellam, The Administration Section, Chief Executive and Clerk's Department, County Hall, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AY or by telephone (0872) 74282 extn 2195.

Closing date for applications: Friday 29th November 1991.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

South Africa's attack is limited but has a sharp cutting edge

Donald shows he is among the world's best fast men

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN DELHI

A WHOLE generation of South African cricketers did not have the chance to prove themselves at international level and no amount of sentiment over Sunday's historic match in Calcutta can compensate for that. What it has done is to project at least one of their successors into the rarified areas they could never reach.

Allan Donald emerged from a day of crippling tension with such distinction that already, one game into South Africa's comeback, he can be confirmed as the newest star of world cricket.

His fast bowling made such an impression on those who played, those who watched and those who only heard about it, that this unassuming 25-year-old from Orange Free State has been temporarily elevated above the troubles in the Punjab and the illicit liquor scandal in Delhi as the prime topic of conversation among Indians.

There is no boundary and no parochialism to the Indian

hero-worship of cricketers, so yesterday, on the claustrophobic streets of Calcutta and then amid the frenzy of two airport terminals, every white male of a certain height was politely accosted by eager-eyed fans as a potential Allan Donald.

Even within his own party, Donald is being treated with a new deference. Ali Bacher, the South African team manager, said: "Allan was world class on Sunday, but it was not only his bowling which impressed me. When he went to England he was raw and naive. He has now gained such confidence and maturity that he made a huge contribution to our team meetings."

The man himself, lean, long-legged and with an open, engaging manner, confirms Bacher's prognosis by putting his rapid development down to the time he has spent in county cricket. This may cynically be viewed as another example of English cricket fine-tuning the opposition, but it should also be seen as a compliment to English coaching methods.

Last summer, his third with Warwickshire, Donald took

83 first-class wickets, finishing third in the national averages and inspiring his club's unlikely title bid. But significantly he also became a formidable bowler in limited-overs cricket, where previously he had been wayward and expensive.

For this, and for his evidently solid temperament, he gives credit to the Warwickshire coach, Bob Woolmer, whose innovations this year included a sports psychologist in the dressing-room. Woolmer's winter job, ironically, is in South Africa, where his coaching of black, underprivileged boys may soon come to fruition.

"Bob helped me a great deal with my rhythm and control," Donald said. "We spend a lot of time studying videos and then putting things into practice in the nets. The result is that I am no longer afraid of bowling in one-day games. I have got my mind right and on Sunday, my self-confidence carried me through when a few players were showing a lot of emotion."

Donald, who was married immediately after the English season, received a good luck

message on Sunday morning from Andy Lloyd, the Warwickshire captain, and he will be at Edgbaston next summer. Before then, however, he will be a key figure for South Africa in the World Cup, and on the evidence from Calcutta he will not only be spearheading the attack but virtually carrying it.

The effect of Donald's hostility, for which five wickets were not unduly flattering, was to expose in stark contrast the shortcomings of his team colleagues.

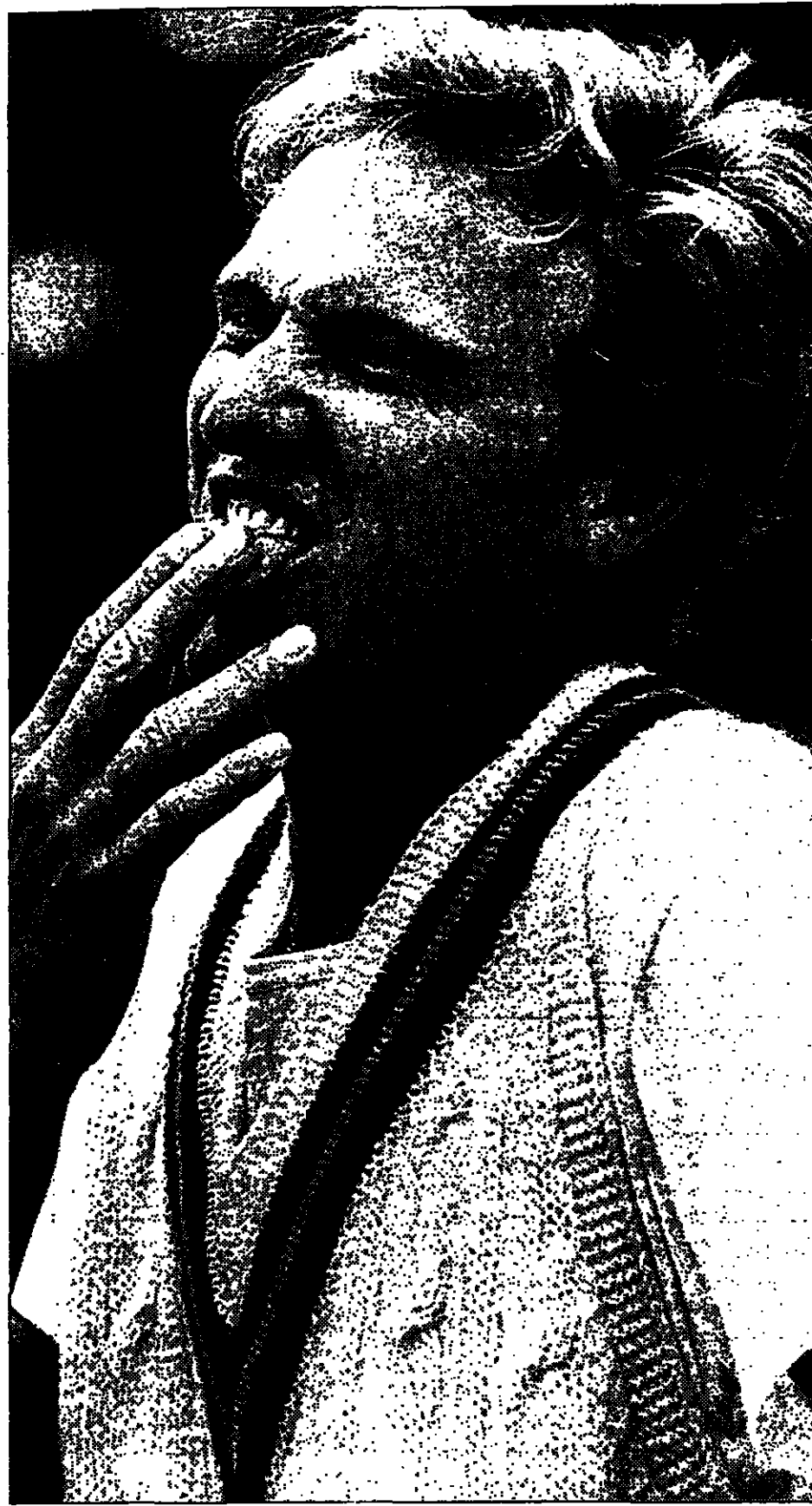
He believes this was a false impression created largely by the overpowering occasion. "Guys like Richard Snell and Brian McMillan were very nervous, but normally they are cool and calm," he said. "You may see something different later in the trip."

Snell, who has attracted interest from at least one English county, and McMillan, Donald's predecessor with Warwickshire, must certainly improve if South Africa are to compete in the World Cup, although by then they should have another fast bowler of high repute, Steven Jack, back after injury.

More immediately, the South Africans play their second international today in the city of Gwalior. It is a curious venue for such a high profile game until it is appreciated that Gwalior's most influential resident is Madhav Rao Scindia, who happens to be president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Lack of hotel rooms in Gwalior has obliged most of the South African party to stay out of town, but this at least has provided a spot more sightseeing.

Their hectic schedule in Calcutta included visits to the Festival of Light, Mother Teresa and the local race meeting, where the easiest winner was a horse called Desert Orchid. But this was Monday, so it must be Agra, and the Taj Mahal.



Finger-licking good: Donald surprised the Indian batsmen by his pace and hostility

RACING

Lack of financial controls criticised

By RICHARD EVANS

THE full extent of increased charges for owners, jockeys, trainers and racecourses being proposed by the Jockey Club emerged yesterday amid claims that racing's rulers have not exercised sufficiently tight financial management.

The Racecourse Owners' Association warned Portman Square in July that it should be looking at a zero rate increase in its racing administration budget for 1992.

However, the proposed increase in charges for next year would produce £960,350 in extra income. The Jockey Club says the extra cash is required due to a reduction in entries and other sources of income. Combined with estimates for next year, the shortfall is almost £900,000.

The Jockeys' Association has already protested in the most vehement terms about a proposed increase of 150 per cent for riders' annual licences.

Owners face paying 70 per cent extra for registering their colours and 80 per cent more for naming their horses. The total increase for owners from £2,571,000 to £2,994,000 is equivalent to 16 per cent.

Trainers will also be affected with the Jockey Club recommending that their licences go up by 50 per cent to £100 a year, while smaller increases would apply to stable inspections, and identity cards for stable staff.

The racecourses are being asked to provide an extra £416,000 via fixture and assorted fees. Point-to-point fixture fees could go up a third and the cost of racing publications also face increases.

Both the ROA and Racecourse Association understand the problems caused by falling revenue from reduced entries. However, senior officials are not convinced that the Jockey Club has done enough to exercise tight financial controls. The absence of a senior financial executive within Portman Square is blamed for the slackness.

"Although they have got one or two longer-term initiatives going on, they are not conducting a root-and-branch look at their operations in the same way any business would be were it facing the kind of cutbacks we are facing in prize-money next year," an ROA official said.

PROPOSED INCREASES

OWNERS: colours £17.50 to £30 (additional income £150,000); names: registration, £4 and three-year-olds £38.50 to £70, four-year-olds and upwards £32 to £50; change of name £25 to £30 (£200 additional income £220,000).

RACECOURSES: fixture fees, additional income £245,000; programme announcements, £47,000; fees for receiving entries, £23,100.

TRAINERS: licences, £26.50 to £100; ponies, £24.50 to £75 (collective additional income £24,000).

JOCKEYS: licences, flat £28 to £100 (additional income £7,200); apprentices £21 to £50 (£7,400); jump £24 to £100 (£6,000); conditions £40 to £20 (£7,000); weights £19 to £50 (£17,500).

Learning from experience

By IVO TENNANT

SIXTEEN players, many of whom came close to selection for England's senior sides this winter, will be given specialist coaching at indoor schools over the next few months as part of the £1 million development programme sponsored by Whitbread.

The list of players was drawn up by Micky Stewart, England's team manager, who has included one Test cricketer in Watkin, of Glamorgan. He played for England last summer, but was unable to retain his place. The others have been recommended by Ted Dexter's national assessors. The number of days

coaching that they will undertake has yet to be determined, but they will also work with the England and England A squads.

Further players will join them during the winter at indoor schools at Arundel, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, East Molesey and Headingley. The main coaches will be Geoff Arnold, Jack Birkenshaw, Tom Cartwright, Alan Knott and Bob Taylor.

"It has long been my ambition to organise such specialist winter sessions so former Test players can pass on the benefit of their valuable experience for the overall

good of English cricket," Stewart said.

"I would have included some other players on this initial list, but they had already committed themselves to playing or coaching overseas this winter," he said. Numbered among such players would have been Stephen and Prichard, the Essex batsmen, both of whom are in Australia.

SQUAD: J D Batty (Yorkshire), R J Blakey (Yorkshire), J P Crawley (Lancashire), R P Davis (Kent), A Fordham (Northamptonshire), S R Lampitt (Worcestershire), N J Llewellyn (Somerset), G D Lloyd (Lancashire), S A Marsh (Kent), C P Mason (Gloucestershire), T C Middleton (Hampshire), D J Mills (Leicestershire), M A Roseberry (Middlesex), S D Udell (Hampshire), Y R Ward (Kent), S L Watkin (Glamorgan).

SNOOKER

League is opened to Fisher

By PHIL YATES

ALLISON Fisher, the women's world champion, will gauge her prowess against 12 of the leading male professionals in the £275,000 Matchroom League next year.

A place in the league was additional to the £12,000 first prize she collected for defeating Karen Corr, 8-2, on Sunday in the final of the Forte Hotels women's world championship at the Hyde Park Hotel, London.

For the last three years, Fisher, the women's world champion five times since 1985, has played a one-frame exhibition against amateur opposition at all league venues as a warm-up for the main match.

Fisher, aged 23, from Sussex, who is in her first season on the "open" professional circuit, faces a possible baptism of fire when she meets Steve Davis, her mixed doubles partner, in her first match on January 12.

The 1992 league has four other new players in John Parrott, the world champion, Mike Hallett, Tony Drago and Gary Wilkinson. Four players, instead of two, will be relegated.

RESULT: Phil A Fisher (Eng) 6-0 Cor (Eng) 8-2. Frame scores (Fisher first) 7-52, 64-7, 33-52, 64-57, 75-44, 80-21, 66-58, 77-6, 73-6, 72-39.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Falcons unable to cope with Rypien

By ROBERT KIRLEY

MARK Rypien completed six touchdowns, passes as the Washington Redskins remained unbeaten after ten games in the National Football League with a 56-17 home win against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday.

Rypien connected on 16 of 31 tosses for 442 yards, a personal best, as he equalled the club record for touchdown passes. He also scored on a four-yard run. Gary Clark made scoring catches of 61, 19 and 82 yards.

Eric Dickerson, suspended for insubordination for four games last week, was not missed as the Indianapolis Colts won for the first time, 28-27, over the New York Jets. Jeff George atoned for two interceptions with three touchdown passes, two to Jessie Hester, and Clarence Verdin scored on an 88-yard kick-off return.

Steve Walsh found Eric Martin with an eight-yard pass for the only touchdown as the New Orleans Saints beat the San Francisco 49ers 10-3. Pat Swilling had two sacks and forced a fumble to lead the New Orleans defense. Jim Kelly passed for two first-half touchdowns and ran for another in the fourth quarter as the Buffalo Bills beat the Green Bay Packers 34-24.

Eric Green caught a 26-yard scoring pass from Neil O'Donnell in overtime to lead the Pittsburgh Steelers past the Cincinnati Bengals 33-27. Scott Davis blocked David Treadwell's extra point with eight minutes to play and James Fitzpatrick batted away a 48-yard field goal by Treadwell as time expired as the Los Angeles Raiders beat the Denver Broncos 17-16.

Al Del Greco kicked four field goals, including the winner with 29 seconds left in overtime, to power the Houston Oilers past the Dallas Cowboys 26-23. In the extra period, Emmitt Smith, of Dallas, ran seven yards to the Houston 18 before he fumbled for the first time this season. Warren Moon then moved downfield with eight successive passes to set up the decisive kick.

Jim McMahon passed for 341 yards and three touchdowns as the Philadelphia Eagles overcame a 23-point deficit in a 32-30 away win over the Cleveland Browns.

RESULTS: Week 12: Sunday: Chicago at Indianapolis, Cincinnati at Philadelphia, Dallas at NY Giants, Denver at Kansas City, LA Raiders at Detroit, Minnesota at Green Bay, New Orleans at San Diego, NY Jets at New England, Phoenix at San Francisco, Seattle at LA Raiders, Tampa Bay at Atlanta, Washington at Pittsburgh, Cleveland at Houston, Monday: Buffalo at Miami.

Results and tables, page 39

BASKETBALL

Scantlebury believes upset is possible

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PETER Scantlebury visited the Soviet Union four years ago, when the murmurs of discontent were well hidden and internal fragmentation still a pipe dream. His memories strike a vivid contrast of splendour and squalor.

"The Red Square was magnificent," he said. "That was the best part of the trip." Scantlebury and the England squad, competing in a tournament with the host nation, China and the Marathon Oil club from the United States, then moved on to Vilnius in

Lithuania. A culture shock awaited.

"It was really depressing, completely different to Moscow," he said. "It was terrible to see the conditions the people lived in. I'll never forget it." England lost 96-71 to the Soviet Union, the only time the countries have met, and returned home wiser for the experience.

Tomorrow, they open their European championship semi-final round programme with a group C match in Moscow. Much has changed in the interim and Scantlebury, the most-capped

player in the party with 60 appearances, believes England could spring a surprise in Kevin Cadle's first competitive match as national coach.

"We've got one of the strongest squads we've ever had," Scantlebury said. "Kevin has introduced a more relaxed feel to things and we must have a great chance of causing an upset."

Cadle has had a few problems. Joel Moore, the Stuttgart guard, has withdrawn with a knee injury that neither he nor his club were prepared to risk. Richard Scantlebury, Peter's younger brother, has

been brought in as replacement.

Trevor Gordon, who plays for Bac Dammé in Belgium, also looked a non-starter when his employees poured scorn on the insurance cover offered by the English Basketball Association (EBBA), but the EBBA brokers hastily upped the offer yesterday and the centre's physical presence will be available after all.

ENGLAND SQUAD: P Baker (Worcestershire), A Byrd (Gloucestershire), K Brown (Leicestershire), S Buxton (Sheffield), C Miller (Gloucestershire), P Scantlebury (London), R Scantlebury (London), M Chaskey (Thames Valley), J Gordon (Bac Dammé), C Irish (Gloucestershire), M Hubbard (Worcestershire), M Hurrell (Gloucestershire).

ICE HOCKEY

Pair pay the penalty for fighting

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

ONE of the more acceptable faces of British ice hockey is the traditional handshake at the end of every game, in which no niceties are exchanged between opposing players.

On Saturday in Nottingham, however, the handshake was the occasion for Shannon Hope, of Cardiff Devils, and Chris Kelland, of the Panthers, to come to blows. Each received a match penalty - Kelland for fighting and Hope for "deliberate attempt to injure" - and both missed

Sunday's games. With Panthers already without the injured Terry Kurtenbach and Dan Dorion, it was hardly surprising that they were beaten 8-3 by Hammerside Seahawks, the premier division leaders.

The Devils are still second, but a 4-3 defeat at Nottingham and an 8-8 draw with Durham Wasples resulted in their losing an opportunity to overtake the Seahawks. John Lawless was their saviour in Durham, equalising with four minutes to go.

Murrayfield Racers have

handed over bottom place to Ayr Raiders, while Whitby Warriors, with wins over the Raiders and Bracknell Bees, improved from sixth to fourth. Five Flyers are the new leaders in the first division.

RESULTS: Hellenic League: Premier division: Ayr Raiders 7, Bracknell Bees 3, Bracknell Bees 3, Whitby Warriors 12, Nottingham Panthers 4, Cardiff Devils 3, Durham Wasples 8, Cardiff Devils 8, Hammerside Seahawks 6, Nottingham Panthers 5, Murrayfield Racers 10, Bracknell Bees 5, Norwich and Peterborough Panthers 7, Bedford Blues 3, Whitby Warriors 13, Ayr Raiders 6. First division: Bracknell Bees 4, Bracknell Bees 7, Bracknell Bees 10, Bracknell Bees 14, Milton Keynes Kings 8, Scunthorpe 10, Lee Valley Lions 5, Telford Tigers 5, Five Flyers 12, Lee Valley Lions 7, Bracknell Bees 4, Bracknell Bees 7, Bracknell Bees 5, Telford Tigers 5, Five Flyers 12.

Red 42 comes to the rescue after the rugby

By PETER BARNARD

MUCH like the first day back at work after an exotic holiday, the first weekend of sport after a month of the exotic Rugby World Cup had the potential to be pretty depressing. The same feeling overcomes me when a cricket Test series ends, implying, as it does, the onset of autumn and afternoon darkness.

I made a valiant effort to watch rugby on Sunday, but for all the improvements that have been made to it, Rugby Special, on BBC2, inevitably had the feel of a second-rate occasion after the previous weekend's heady stuff. Sale beat Moseley by kicking all their points, so at least you felt you were watching England. An England practice match. This sense of unreality,

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

together with a latent fury at the inability of the four main channels to do more than a couple of minutes on the news with the historic India v South Africa one-day match, left me floundering. But help was at hand, at 1.00am on Sunday.

I thought at first that Red 42 was merely a fill-in programme for insomniacs, but it turned out to be a repeat of a programme transmitted on Channel 4 on Saturday lunchtime. It is the Saint n' Greavies of American football, only

without the dreadful jokes. American football needed a magazine format programme, and this is it.

The most interesting item this weekend touched on that hot issue in sport everywhere, the ability of the officials. In football, there is a permanent lobby for having two referees and there have even been suggestions that cricket needs a third umpire. In American football, there are six officials in any game that inevitably produces its Chaplinesque moments: Red 42 showed two of them in a high-speed collision.

The other issue relating to the officials in other sports has to do with action replays and whether umpires and referees should have access to this device. In American football, every decision is

reviewed by an official watching a replay in the stands, although the evidence that this reduces the number of wrong decisions is flimsy.

However, Red 42 produced statistics from the 1990 season which showed that 15 per cent of decisions made by the officials had been changed by the replay officials - though that does not, of course, prove that the arbiters were correct.

What it does show is that having six officials on the field is no insurance against error, but that giving them access to instant replay is at least an insurance against some errors. The case for a similar system in football and cricket is, in my view, overwhelming, but the vanity of referees and umpires and the sluggishness of

governing bodies will doubtless delay the development.

Channel 4's main American football coverage, on Sunday night, showed yet another defeat for the San Francisco 49ers, this time to the New Orleans Saints. The reason for the 49ers' forgettable season was shown pacing the touchline in obvious frustration: the matchless quarterback, Joe Montana, out for the season with an injury to his throwing arm.

The 49ers are discovering what life after Montana could be like, and, given that he is now nearing the end of his career, they had better learn to live without him soon. Shades of Tottenham and Gascoigne, but let's not push too far the comparison between a consummate professional and an immature firecracker.



Montana: matchless

Saturday November 18 unless stated

FIRST DIVISION

X A Villa v Norths Co

1 Chelsea v Norwich

2 Everton v Wimbledon

3 Luton v QPR

4 Man City v Bristol City

5 Nottm F v Coventry

6 Nottm F v Arsenal

7 Tottenham v Luton

Not on coupons: Sheffield United v Shrewsbury, Watford v Shrewsbury, West Ham v Luton (Sunday).

SECOND DIVISION

1 Blackpool v Barnsley

2 Bristol R v Watford

3 Cambridge v Brighton

4 Derby v Norwich

5 Middlesbrough v Cheltenham

6 Middlesbrough v Cheltenham

7 Oxford v Bristol City

8 Plymouth v Port Vale

9 Swindon v Portsmouth

Not on coupons: Sunderland v Newcastle (Sunday).

FA CUP

FIRST ROUND

1 Aston Villa v Huddersfield

2 Blackpool v Grimsby

3 Carlisle v Crewe

4 Colchester v Evesham

5 Darlington v Chester

6 Darlington v Chester

7 Darlington v Chester

8 Darlington v Chester

9 Darlington v Chester

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Stephenson set to land double

ARTHUR Stephenson, 21, ways a force to be reckoned with at Sedgfield, should be on the mark with a double at the Cleveland course again today through Over The Deel (2.05) and Break The Chain (2.35).

The Bishop Auckland trainer runs Over The Deel in the stamina-sapping Dick Brewitt Memorial Handicap Chase where he repossesses Shepherd's Hymn, who beat him by two lengths in the Night Nurse Trophy over an extended three miles on the course last month.

Stephenson's Hymn only just held on that day after having a decent advantage at the last, while an eye-furling extra to cover today and a slight weight advantage, I expect Over The Deel to take his revenge.

Break The Chain had an industrious campaign over hurdles last winter, winning six of his 15 outings. His most significant success was in the Newcastle Breweries Top Of The North Novices' Handicap Hurdle in which he beat the useful Icarus by four lengths.

Stephenson is sure to have a stronger chance of success in the opening event, the John Wade Haulage Selling Hurdle, with Song Of Gynrak, who was most unlucky not to capture a similar event at Sedgfield at the corresponding meeting last year.

Mary Reveley, who has made such an excellent start to the current season, can land the Webb Seal Double Glazing Juvenile Novices' Hurdle with Travel Myth, who showed plenty of promise when chasing home Bahrain Queen at Hexham in September.

On the all-weather surface at Southwell, Paul Howling's Joe Sugden will be a fancied contender for the Coopers Lybrand Deloitte Handicap after his creditable second behind the smart sprinter Spaniards Close at Doncaster on Saturday.

When he fell two out after holding a commanding lead.

A second winner for the Great Haddon stable should come in the concluding Tony Fawcett Memorial Handicap Hurdle in which Bay Term, who finished runner-up to Spanish Whisper here last month, can go one better.

Peter Easterby's brother, Mick, can collect the Racing Post Staff Top Of The North Festival Handicap Chase with the useful performer on his day, who can successfully concede lumps of weight to his two rivals.

Pendulum of power sways towards French

REVOLUTION is not the British way of life. Change tends to be more gradual, with shifts in trends and outside influences often pointing the way ahead. The deeply conservative racing "industry" is a classic example, both off and on course.

So it is nonsensical to pretend that the 1991 Flat season will go down as a dramatic watershed for the sport, when turf historians look back to the century ends they might just identify the past nine months as the launchpad for a significant shift in the balance of racing power and influence. The change involves trainers, jockeys, owners and, most important of all, the respective strengths of British and French racing.

Arazi, hopefully horse of the year in Europe and in the United States, is a one-off and should not be allowed to colour one's judgment to an excessive degree.

Leaving aside the performances of Francois Disdier's sensational champion, French horses still came out best in this year's cross-Channel encounters.

Andre Fabre's five successes here in 12 runners included the group one victories of Toulon in the St Leger and Tel Quel in the Champion Stakes, while John Hammond pitched in with Polar Falcon and Suave Dancer.

I believe the French influence over British racing at the top level will increase in the years ahead. There are already alarming indications that some of the larger British-based owners intend to have more horses in training in France and fewer in Newmarket or around Lambourn. Who can blame them given the vast difference in prize-money?

Ironically, such a switch may serve to reinforce another notable trend this summer: the rise of trainers like Jack Berry, Richard Hannon and Paul Cole, whose success has not been based on Middle East oil wells.

Cole, who began his training life with two unbroken yearlings and a three-year-old, commented a year ago: "I'm not quite in the big league of trainers." The new champion trainer is now, and deservedly so. While Prince Fahd Salman has provided some high-octane firepower, the Whatcombe trainer's achievements stem from a wide base. Generous, the English and

Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent, reviews the Flat season which closed at

Folkestone yesterday

Irish Derby winner, caught the racing public's imagination along with Magic Ring, Dilum and Culture Vulture. Further group one success seems assured in 1992.

Richard Hannon, who appears to love every minute of racing, reached another personal milestone in September when he became the eleventh trainer this century to send out 100 winners in a British Flat season.

Like Jack Berry, who recorded his second successive century of winners this season, Hannon has no Arab patronage and has obtained much of his success with shrewdly purchased yearlings.

Are the years of Henry Cecil, Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani sweeping the board drawing to a close? Or was the below-average year endured by several Newmarket trainers just a one-off?

John Gosden, whose mid-season hopes were wrecked by various illnesses to his string, produced a remarkable end-of-season surge which will revise expectations that he is a champion trainer in waiting.

Few handlers have made such an impact in their first season as Peter Chapple-Hyam. Group one successes with Dr Devious in the Dewhurst Stakes and Rodrigo De Triano in the Middle Park Stakes were the culmination of a fantastic year which revived Robert Sangster's hopes of outgunning the Makdum brothers.

The new Manton handler

achieved a strike rate of 24 per cent, some of the lesser lights from Sangster's increasingly successful breeding empire.

John Dunlop, one of the shrewdest brains in racing, will have happy memories of the season, especially the earlier months, thanks to Shadavd winning the 1,000 Guineas, and the injury-prone Marju.

Clive Brittain, always helpful, will look back with pride at the performances of Lady Beaverbrook's two greys, Mystiko and Terimon.

Selkirk's victory in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes rounded off one of the best seasons for Ian Balding, while Geoff Wragg's winning tally was 50 per cent above his previous best.

Barry Hills deserves special mention. Despite all the upheaval connected with moving back to Lambourn from Manton, he came within a whisker of sending out his second successive century of winners.

Darryll Holland, who started the season as a 5lb claimer, partnered a third of the winners from South Bank as he rode more than 80 winners.

Holland and Alan Munro, with his first century of winners, appear to be the pair of outstanding young riders ready to challenge for top honours, not that Pat Eddery gives any indication of giving way to the younger generation.

In July the nine times champion jockey joined the select quartet of Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggott, Willie Carson and Doug Smith by riding his 3,000th winner. "I must kick on now and reach 4,000," he commented.

Everyone will have their favourite memories of the Flat turf season which closed at Folkestone yesterday. Generous and Suave Dancer were outstanding at Ascot and Longchamp, but for me the never-to-be-forgotten sight of Arazi passing the world's top two-year-olds at Churchill Downs as though they were standing still takes pride of place. Fantastic!

LEADING OWNERS

Owner	Wins	Value (£)
Sheikh Mohammed	13	1,075,270
H. A. H. Al-Jumayl	2	774,185
F. Salama	47	589,595
M. Al-Jumayl	33	457,243
R. Sangster	54	462,814
Lady Beaverbrook	13	379,710
D. Thompson	17	266,112
Al-Budde Ltd	25	214,132
G. Strawbridge	10	312,261



Cole: deservedly joins big league of trainers

TOP TEN TRAINERS AND JOCKEYS OF 1991

Trainer	Wins	Value (£)
J. Berry	126	2,141,332
R. Hannon	121	1,342,332
H. Cecil	116	980,847
G. Wragg	86	916,140
J. Gosden	84	855,643
M. Stoute	83	1,282,833
L. Cumani	72	1,008,307
P. Cole	69	1,008,237
J. Dunlop	58	1,040,564
M. Easterby	58	489,812

COLE ends season in grand style

By JACK WATERMAN

THOUGHTS of Generous and Magic Ring. Nevertheless, he added yet more honour to his trainer's scintillating record of two-year-old success.

Backed down from 11-4 to 7-4 favourite and confidently ridden by Richard Quinn, Confrontor came home six lengths clear of Battle Colours.

After the top trainer had marginally added to his total prize-money of more than £1.5 million it was the turn of the leading owner, Sheikh Mohammed, to achieve something similar.

Once again, Richard Quinn took a hand, completing a

double on She's The Tops, who won the Epee Maiden Guaranteed Stakes by five lengths.

The third horse, Shao Lin, was subsequently disqualified and his rider, Ray Cochrane, suspended for ten days (from November 20) for intentional interference just after the start.

Thus, the afternoon was proved by no means the widely-expected box of remaindered fireworks: one of its earlier pleasures being the Claymore Handicap victory of St Patrick's Day in the Brigadier Gerard colours of Mrs Jean Hillsop.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Folkestone

Going: soft (good to soft in places).

1.00 (1m 114yds) 1. St Patrick's Day (2-1) (114yds) 1.2. Longfellow (12-1) 3.3. W. J. (114yds) 4.4. (114yds) 5.5. (114yds) 6.6. (114yds) 7.7. (114yds) 8.8. (114yds) 9.9. (114yds) 10.10. (114yds) 11.11. (114yds) 12.12. (114yds) 13.13. (114yds) 14.14. (114yds) 15.15. (114yds) 16.16. (114yds) 17.17. (114yds) 18.18. (114yds) 19.19. (114yds) 20.20. (114yds) 21.21. (114yds) 22.22. (114yds) 23.23. (114yds) 24.24. (114yds) 25.25. (114yds) 26.26. (114yds) 27.27. (114yds) 28.28. (114yds) 29.29. (114yds) 30.30. (114yds) 31.31. (114yds) 32.32. (114yds) 33.33. (114yds) 34.34. (114yds) 35.35. (114yds) 36.36. (114yds) 37.37. (114yds) 38.38. (114yds) 39.39. (114yds) 40.40. (114yds) 41.41. (114yds) 42.42. (114yds) 43.43. (114yds) 44.44. (114yds) 45.45. (114yds) 46.46. (114yds) 47.47. (114yds) 48.48. (114yds) 49.49. (114yds) 50.50. (114yds) 51.51. (114yds) 52.52. (114yds) 53.53. (114yds) 54.54. (114yds) 55.55. (114yds) 56.56. (114yds) 57.57. (114yds) 58.58. (114yds) 59.59. (114yds) 60.60. 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RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Gloucester v. Ex-
University (7.00)
OTHER SPORT
BOXING: Commonwealth super-feat-
weight championship Hugh F.
Bermingham v Paul Harvey (10.00) (C
left Wolverhampton); Joe Bugner Jr. (C
left Doncaster) (Woughton C.C. M
Keston)
BASKETBALL: Benson and Hedges Mas-
tersons (Glasgow)
TENNIS: Women's Challenge Tourna-
ment (Trafalgar Centre, Windsor)

American brings welcome spice to ATP final

Fresh Agassi may find inspiration to retain his title

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

FOR more than a moment over the past two months, it seemed that Andre Agassi might not be in Frankfurt this week to defend the ATP championships title he won so spectacularly 12 months ago. Others were playing more often and playing better than the American, who finally slipped into the eighth and last available berth solely because of the points he won at these championships last year.

Whether he — and the other members of the elite eight — should be allowed to use those points to qualify for this year's event is open to debate, but there can be no doubt that Agassi's colourful presence lends spice to these traditional end-of-year championships, particularly as he begins his defence against Boris Becker tonight. If he fails to qualify for the semi-finals of the \$2.25 million ATP championships — and besides Becker, Stich and Sampras are in his group — Agassi will most likely drop out of the top ten for the first time in three years, which is a puzzling descent for the new darling of the centre court.

Evert record equalled

Oakland — Martina Navratilova equalled Chris Evert's professional record of 157 career titles by defeating Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, 6-3, 6-3, to win the Virginia Slims of California tournament on Sunday.

Navratilova, who could break Evert's record in her last 1991 tournament in two weeks' time at the New York championships, now has a 5-5 career record against Seles.

"This win is as satisfying as a grand slam title in many ways," Navratilova, the sec-

ond seed, who won \$70,000, said. "When I came here before the tournament, I was in the emotional dumps. To beat Monica and equal the record of a great friend of mine ticks me pink."

Navratilova won by playing aggressively and forcing Seles to pass her at the net. Navratilova won 73 of 124 points at the net and missed just one approach shot.

The quality of tennis was exceptionally high and many points were won on outright winners. *Reuter*

me mentally," Agassi said yesterday. "I've learnt a lot about my game and next year will be very crucial for me."

But then he said that last year, just as he said he would play all the grand slams in 1992. So would he be playing the Australian next year? "No, not unless I suddenly feel the need to play."

After the emotional high of Wimbledon, Agassi has gone underground. Since the end of July, he has played just 14 matches, emerging briefly to help his country to the final of the Davis Cup and to lose in the first round of the US Open. With the Davis Cup final against France next month, he was not even too concerned about qualifying for this week.

"I was looking forward to the Davis Cup final and if I didn't make it here I wasn't going to put a lot of importance on it," he said.

That was not entirely what the ATP wanted to hear, though its champion at least had the presence of mind to suggest that now he had qualified he thought the whole thing very important and to describe the

unfortunately for the organisers and the television companies, the sudden absence of Evert has channelled all the glamour into one group. Becker, Agassi, Stich and Sampras, in the John Newcombe Group, would have made an ideal last four but now that the groups have had to be rearranged only two of them can reach the semi-finals. Jim Courier, the top seed, Ivan Lendl, playing his twelfth consecutive "Masters", Guy Forget and Karel Novacek, who make up the Lieke Nasse Group, are a more workmanlike quartet. "Both groups have the best players in the world," Agassi said. For once, nobody could argue.

ORDER OF PLAY: J. Courier (USA) v K. Novacek (Czech Republic) 12.30; G. Forget (France) v I. Lendl (USA) 1.00; B. Becker (Germany) v A. Agassi (USA) 2.00.



Builders' rubble: John Maggs, the Crawley chairman, dreams of glory amid the debris

Tapie continues to confound

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL BY PETER ROBINSON

THE impact on Marseilles of last week's exit from the European Cup was always going to be traumatic. Too much time and too much money has been invested in the club by Bernard Tapie, its very rich, media-friendly owner, for such a failure to pass without comment and headlines of some kind.

Tapie has not let anybody down. Almost as soon as Sparta Prague had put the French champions out of the European Cup last Wednesday, he was warning his players that they had until the end of the season to save their careers with the club. That deadline has now been brought forward to this week.

A dull, disappointing 0-0 draw with Montpellier at the weekend seems to have been enough to persuade Tapie to take an immediate look at his expensive squad.

Thus, the match with AS Monaco — Marseilles' next fixture — suddenly appears to have more at stake than merely the leadership of the French league. Chris Waddle and Trevor Steven, the club's two Englishmen, and Abedi Pele, its Ghanaian international, are among those under the millionaire's microscope.

"We shall know more about who will be staying with the club next week," Tapie said on Sunday.

Monaco beat Nantes 1-0 at the weekend to move within two points of Marseilles at the top of the table.

In the meantime, since Marseilles cannot play in the official European Cup, Tapie has invested his own. A spokesman at the Stade Velodrome confirmed yesterday that several of this season's other European failures — Arsenal, Rangers, AC Milan, Juventus, Bayern Munich and PSV Eindhoven among them — have been asked to play in an alternative tournament with the French. Since it is their tournament, all the matches would be played in Marseilles.

Kaiserslautern, knocked out of the European Cup by Barcelona in midweek, recovered to beat Hansa Rostock 3-0 to move second in the Bundesliga, but the leaders, Eintracht Frankfurt, losers in the UEFA Cup to Ghenet, were held 1-1 by Karlsruhe SC.

It was confirmed yesterday that FIFA is to consider recognising the football associations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the three Baltic republics, at its executive meeting in New York next month. If the three are granted provisional membership of world football's governing body, they will be in line to play in the qualifying round of the 1994 World Cup.

Crawley lay new terracing for first-round tie

By WALTER GAMMIE

THE builders who moved in to Crawley Town's ground for two frantic weeks' work have stolen the limelight from the players who earned the Sussex club a first-round FA Cup tie at home to Northampton Town. As the players run on to the Town Meadow pitch on Saturday, they will be greeted with the traditional roar and flying shreds of paper from supporters standing on fresh concrete terracing, studded with newly erected crash barriers, that will have cost the club £30,000.

"Most clubs at this stage of the Cup are looking to make a few quid out of it, but I think we will be one of the few clubs that will come out of it with a loss," John Maggs, the Crawley chairman, said. "Obviously we're negotiating with the council, who own the ground, and the Football Trust to try and raise some help but we are still prepared to carry the burden ourselves."

Maggs admits the decision to go ahead with the work, which will enable the ground's capacity to be raised to 5,700, was an emotional one. The crowd of 3,425 that watched Crawley beat Horsham 3-0 in a replay broke the ground record that had stood since 3,250 watched Crawley at the same stage of the competition against Wimbledon in 1969. "We had to set the stage out," Maggs said. "It would have been easy to switch the tie, but the players prefer to play in their nice little ground and everybody in the town is excited about it because the last time we played in the first round of the FA Cup was against Exeter City 20 years ago."

Maggs was in goal that day, having joined the club when aged 19 in 1963 and playing until 1980 when he moved easily into the manager's job



FA CUP

after more than 900 appearances. Just as seamlessly, Maggs, already a director, took over as chairman at the start of this season. A builder by trade, he is restlessly supervising the ground improvements.

He certainly does not begrudge Brian Sparrow, the new manager, hitting the FA Cup jackpot at the first attempt. Maggs said: "I brought Brian from Enfield last year. He was very good in the dressing room. I had my spide and he had his spide and I was very impressed, so I had no hesitation in giving him a chance as a manager." A serious knee injury has curtailed Sparrow's contribution as a player, but his team started brightly in the Beazer Homes League premier division.

Lack of goalscoring punch has since seen them slip in the league but Northampton can expect stern resistance from a solid defence marshalled by Tony Vessey, the captain, and Damien Webber.

Steve Powell, signed from Eastbourne Town, of the Sussex County League, has proved a lively capture at left back and Tim Hulme, signed from Hythe Town, is a commanding presence in midfield.

The legacy of the Cup run will, however, be the new spick-and-span terracing, but for how long remains questionable. "Obviously the club's final goal is the Football League," Maggs said. "But by then we may have moved into a new site because Town Meadow is earmarked for a relief road."

Sainz fails to start

The world rally champion, Carlos Sainz, must defend his title in the Lombard RAC rally in two weeks' time after his car failed to start yesterday morning during the Catalonia rally in Spain.

The reigning world champion had been holding second place on his home event and was just 34sec behind his Toyota colleague, Armin Schwarz, at the end of the first day's racing on Sunday before his car broke down yesterday. Sainz leads this year's championship by eight points.

Tonbridge duo

Simon Davies and Philip Le Marchand, the second Tonbridge pair, reached the quarter-finals of the Noel Bruce public school old boys rackets doubles championship, beating the experienced Rugby first pair, Desmond Martin and Fred Saxon, in five games.

Roman on top

Roman Krznaric, the Oxford University No. 1, won the Ernst and Young national real tennis inter-college singles championship, beating the holder, Julian Snow, the world's No. 1 amateur, in the final.

Cutting costs is theme of London meeting

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THE future of international racing comes under the spotlight in London this week as delegates from around the world discuss ways of reducing the now astronomical costs of competing in grand-prix events.

Last week, members of the 50th Class Association voted to replace their racing yacht designed to the International Offshore Rule (IOR), which now cost up to £750,000 a year to campaign, with a strict one-design class, which could reduce those costs by half.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC), Britain's governing authority, is pressing for wholesale changes to the existing IOR that would tax stripped-out designs on one hand, and enhance performance of all yachts on the other, by allowing asymmetrical spinners.

Supporters of this radical blueprint are likely to suffer from the absence of Bruce Farr, the American-based New Zealand designer, who was injured two weeks ago aboard one of his America's Cup yachts during trials off San Diego. His views are

highly respected by the majority of delegates, and without his input, many will be wary of voting on changes to the existing rules.

The statistics indicate the seriousness of the situation. IOR registrations world-wide are down by around 35 per cent this year to a new low of 3,200, while boats rated under the international measurement system (IMS) have increased by 36 per cent to 4,800.

The IMS is acknowledged as being too inaccurate to replace the IOR as a grand prize rule, but unless delegates tackle the problems head-on, organisers of big events such as the Whitbread Round the World Race and Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup will be forced to set their own course with new rules.

If asymmetric sails fail to win approval, then Whitbread are likely to declare their independence from the rule. "Whitbread maxis will be allowed to carry the larger running sails whichever way the vote goes," Ian Bailey, Whitbread's race director, said yesterday.

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL RESULTS

ARGENTINE LEAGUE (PRIMERA DIVISION)	
San Lorenzo 2-1 Boca Juniors	2-1
Independiente 1-0 River Plate	1-0
Estudiantes 1-0 Racing Club	1-0
San Martin 1-0 Talleres	1-0
Argentinos Juniors 1-0 Gimnasia y Esgrima	1-0
Union de Santa Fe 1-0 Lanus	1-0
Chacarero 1-0 Atletico Tucuman	1-0
San Justo 1-0 Belgrano	1-0
San Carlos 1-0 Platense	1-0
San Miguel 1-0 Huracan	1-0
San Marcos 1-0 Tigre	1-0
San Isidro 1-0 Quilmes	1-0
San Jorge 1-0 Ferro Carril Oeste	1-0
San Juan 1-0 Newells Old Boys	1-0
San Luis 1-0 Central Cordoba	1-0
San Rafael 1-0 Deportivo Maestranza	1-0
San Martin de Tucuman 1-0 Estudiantes de La Plata	1-0
San Carlos de Cerezo 1-0 Deportivo Riestra	1-0
San Miguelito 1-0 Deportivo Moron	1-0
San Juan de los Rios 1-0 Deportivo Toluca	1-0
San Marcos de Neiva 1-0 Deportivo Pasto	1-0
San Juan de Pasto 1-0 Deportivo Cundinamarca	1-0
San Juan de los Rios 1-0 Deportivo Toluca	1-0
San Marcos de Neiva 1-0 Deportivo Pasto	1-0
San Juan de Pasto 1-0 Deportivo Cundinamarca	1-0

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL)	
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

ATHLETICS

COLUMBIANS	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA)	
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

FOR THE RECORD

FENCING	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL)	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

MOTOR RALLYING

SPANISH CATALAN RALLY	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

TENNIS

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: Women's Tennis	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

REAL TENNIS

MORETNO, ILLINOIS: Real Tennis	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

RUGBY UNION

AOT UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP	
Washington 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10
San Francisco 27-10 Philadelphia	27-10
San Diego 27-10 Pittsburgh	27-10
San Antonio 27-10 Cincinnati	27-10
San Jose 27-10 New York Jets	27-10

Shilton's heir prepares for the crucial European championship game against Poland

Woods holds key for England

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN POZNAN

ENGLAND'S foundations in the European championship qualifying tie here tomorrow will inevitably be shaky. Almost all the cornerstones on which the World Cup challenge was built have either crumbled through old age or been temporarily damaged and, as yet, only one has been adequately replaced.

Chris Woods, who could hold the nation's destiny in his hands, has at last emerged from the shadow of Peter Shilton. For so long the pupil to the master who set a British record of 125 caps, he has finally established himself as England's prime goalkeeper.

"He has done so well that hardly anybody notices that Peter Shilton is not around anymore," Graham Taylor said. Yet he was not immediately convinced that Woods, even though he made his debut in 1985, was necessarily the natural successor when the position became vacant 15 months ago.

"It was hard on him, because he had done nothing wrong," Taylor explained, "but I had to find out about David Seaman as well. Now I know that Chris Woods is better for international football. He's experienced, calm, stays on his feet and makes saves only when he has to."

Woods is prepared to demonstrate those qualities in the game he describes as the biggest of his life. He, more than anyone, hopes that the return flight will be an occasion for champagne. At midnight, he will start to celebrate his 32nd birthday at about 36,000 feet.

Taylor declares that he has chosen a team to protect Woods from the threats that were consistently posed to Shilton by the Poles in Katowice two years ago. Then, in an equally decisive qualifying tie, the goalkeeper alone was responsible for securing England's place in the finals of the World Cup.

Taylor will not reveal his line-up until lunchtime tomorrow, a decision that has prompted prolonged speculation. In the absence of so many recognised representatives, it was inevitable that the rumours should spread across a large grey area and revolve principally around midfield, where Andy Gray, appropriately, is expected to play.

All of the individuals selected most regularly there by Bobby Robson are missing either permanently or temporarily.



Practice makes perfect: Woods, left, the first-choice England goalkeeper, training yesterday with his deputy, Seaman, in Poznan

porarily. Bryan Robson has retired. Chris Waddle, Steve McMahon and Neil Webb have been discarded. John Barnes and Paul Gascoigne are unavailable and even Trevor Steven, once regarded by Taylor as a prominent fixture, has been omitted.

None of Taylor's current choices is wholly reliable. Even David Platt, the one remnant with any significant experience, is enduring a wretched season with Bari, who have sunk to the bottom of the Italian first division.

Although Platt insists that he remains unaffected by the strains imposed in Italy and has nothing to prove for England, Taylor recognises that he has been over extending himself. In trying too hard, his contribution has diminished. Against the Turks, he was no less ineffective than Bryan Robson.

In the circumstances, it is inconceivable that Platt will be omitted, because his accomplices are all comparative novices. David Rocastle,

the most senior among them, made his last full appearance two years ago. Apart from Geoff Thomas, the other four candidates in the party are all new boys.

Since England cannot afford to be outnumbered there, Platt may feature in a line of five and be given the freedom occasionally to leave his defensive duties and provide support for the otherwise lonely Gary Lineker. That promises to be the policy, but the personnel may be different.

There is a suggestion that Peter Beardsley may renew his partnership with England's captain. When asked about Beardsley's qualities yesterday, Taylor said that he is "vital for team spirit, for pulling people together. He is first class in wanting the team to win even though he is not in it." Was that merely a smokescreen?

Apart from Gray, another debutant could be Andy Sinton. Although he lists his own strengths as "running at people and getting crosses in", he classes himself not as a winger but as a wide midfielder player. Sinton, who operates on the left flank for Queen's Park Rangers, could adopt the same position.

Not so long ago, he was descending down the League with Cambridge United. Now he is ascending towards a peak he feels is the ultimate. "I half thought that I'd get into the squad," he said. "There were a few whispers around." There are more than a few of them circulating now around this Polish city.

PROBABLE TEAM: C. Woods, I. Dixon, D. Platt, G. Thomas, A. Sinton, G. Lineker.

Crawley's burden, page 39
Tapie's deadline, page 39

Staunton and Byrne likely to be given midfield roles

From PETER BALL IN ISTANBUL

NIGHT fell quickly in Istanbul yesterday, leaving Jack Charlton as much in the dark over his own plans as the identity of his opponents in Wednesday's European championship qualifying match here. Turkey responded to their lack of success in the competition so far by changing their name to Türkiye.

Charlton's problems are more physical than psychological and he is hoping that this morning's training session will shed some light on them. If Ireland are to qualify for next summer's finals they have both to win and rely on England to be defeated in Poznan.

The latter is in the lap of the

gods, but until last week the first part of the equation had seemed a foregone conclusion. But the further evidence of the improvement in Turkish club football, with two clubs coming successfully through their European second-round ties, confirmed the impression given at Wembley last month that under Sep Piontek the Turkish international team is also a rather different proposition from the one beaten 5-0 in Dublin a year ago.

Charlton conceded the improvement, while pointing out: "They're bottom of the group and haven't got a point yet so we must have a chance."

He is more concerned about the effect of the withdrawals of seven senior players through injury. He is also waiting to be reassured about the fitness of both Niall Quinn and Mick McCarthy.

What is clear is that with Houghton, Keane, Whelan, Townsend and Sheridan all missing, the five-man midfield which was so exalting in Poland last month, will have to be abandoned for the old familiar 4-4-2.

"I liked the team we had in Poland, and I liked the way we played then, it was exciting and gave them a lot of problems, but we've got to back track from that," Charlton said. "It's just unfortunate that we've lost everybody that made it work so well."

The likelihood is that John Byrne and Steve Staunton will be pressed into service in support of McGrath and Sheedy in midfield. "I don't like asking people to do strange things because then you lose the pattern. But Byrne is used to playing wide on the right, that's no problem for him, and Staunton has played midfield before," Charlton said.

With Morris and Irwin missing, and Staunton moving forward, the veteran Chris Hughton and Terry Phelan, a novice in international terms, will be able to compete. This morning's fitness runs for Quinn and McCarthy may determine whether Charlton has any choices to make in terms of personnel.

Morrow's injury adds to N Ireland's worries

THE Northern Ireland squad for tomorrow's European championship, group four qualifying game against Denmark in Odense was further depleted yesterday when Steve Morrow, the young Arsenal defender, was sent home after damaging a calf muscle during pre-flight training (Ian Ross writes).

Although Billy Bingham, the Irish team manager, now has only 16 fit players at his disposal, he has decided against replacing Morrow, who is on loan at Reading.

BOA in £2m Games appeal

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN, believed by the British Olympic Association to be the only nation in the world which receives no financial assistance from government for its Olympic effort and which has to pay tax on money it raises, launched a £2 million nationwide appeal yesterday for the 1992 Games in Albertville and Barcelona.

There is no gold without silver and that figure is the minimum which the BOA believes will be required to send a team similar in size to that which competed in Calgary and Seoul in 1988.

"Our team finished twelfth in Seoul with five gold, 10 silver and nine bronze medals," Dick Palmer, the BOA general secretary, said. "Sporting standards worldwide have increased since that time. We must not send our team to the Games with one hand tied behind its back. That is why the success of the appeal is so crucial to our Olympic participation."

Addressing the launch of the appeal in London, the Princess Royal, the BOA

president, said: "Those selected to represent our country will have devoted many years of their lives to reach this goal. If, with your help, we can raise the funds we urgently need then everyone who reaches the high standard for selection will be able to compete."

The reference to standard is especially significant. Last November, the BOA announced that all British competitors would need to show top 16 potential or meet the standards set by the international federations. In other words, one Eddie Edwards was enough.

But, in paying lip service to International Olympic Committee moves to prevent the burgeoning Games from growing still further, the BOA has boxed clever. Through various initiatives, notably its Olympic training camps, it has sought to ensure that competitors reach the standards upon which it is insisting in sufficient numbers for there to be similar sized squads in Barcelona and Albertville as there were in Seoul and Calgary.

While the Barcelona organisers have placed a ceiling on 15,000 competitors and officials on their Games, compared with the 13,800 who were in Seoul, the summer Olympics have acquired two new sports in baseball and badminton.

The more favourable cost of sending to Barcelona, by comparison to Seoul, means that, despite inflation, less is needed this time.

FA fails in its duty to keep up with times

From DAVID MILLER IN POZNAN

Sir Alf Ramsey was dismissed by the Football Association, after elimination by Poland from the 1974 World Cup, less because of the way Ramsey's teams were then playing — negatively — than the financial loss suffered in consequence. Moral guardian for over a century of the game they imaginatively formalised, the FA was into an era of commercial expediency.

It could be said that a similar situation now confronts Graham Taylor: that England are, tomorrow, playing for the financial bonus of appearing in the European finals — theirs and the FA's — as much as for what remains of the glory of the game. The difference is that Ramsey still had on call players of a substantially superior class to those available to Taylor.

The present manager, whose job is not on the line, is trying to conduct a symphony in which many players are deficient in fundamental exercises of technique.

The changing face of the FA during 128 years is faithfully recorded, by Bryon Butler, of the BBC, in a new official history of the organisation that initially shaped the world game. Butler's limitation, in 300 pages extensively and originally illustrated, is an editorial "official" circumspection that prevents independent analysis of contemporary controversies.

It was perhaps fortunate for Butler that the emergence of the FA's Premier League arrived too late for inclusion. Anxiety tomorrow about England avoiding defeat, to ensure qualification, embraces a much deeper concern. There may be two-and-a-quarter million Englishmen playing recreational football, yet changes in school, leisure, social and sporting habits during 30 years have radically reduced the level of skill at the top.

Butler writes that at the end of the Eighties, English football was "a tapestry of tragedy, divisive power struggles, endless crisis, wearisome acrimony and erosive criticism". What he does not emphasise, as revealed for example by John Cartwright, formerly a coach at the Lilleshall School of Excellence, is that even the most able teenagers are now basically ill-equipped. This was temporarily disguised within public euphoria induced by England's appearance in the World Cup semi-final, but freshly exposed by last week's humbling club experiences in European competition.

Quality, as Bobby Charlton says in his foreword, has been replaced by intensity: though England's most dramatic of all World Cup performers euphemistically suggests the game is not poorer "but different".

The strength and weakness of the FA has been its historic conservatism: its commendable refusal rashly to alter the simple formula of the most successful of games, its reluctance to respond swiftly enough to external developments. To professionalise last century, to the formation of Fifa, to the arrival of the World Cup, to negative physical play (1960s), to crowd

hooliganism, to excessive school competition simultaneous with less spontaneous learning.

The flaw in the direct-style tactical coaching philosophy of Charles Hughes, the director of coaching, is that his principle — "goals stem from five passes or less" — was relevant when the ability-level was much higher. The FA spends a fortune on coaching for increasingly declining raw material. This explains why Wimbledon won the FA Cup, Cambridge lead the second division and Barnet the fourth.

England will be challenged by African and Asian countries where players develop spontaneously in non-organised junior play. What the FA must decide in the long term, I am convinced, is whether soccer should convert to being a summer sport. As long as football remains an English winter sport, in a moderate but relatively cold climate, schoolboy players will fail to develop. Football will not compete with rival sports, with central heating, computer games and telly-watching. Who now spends the thousands of hours of casual practice that made Matthews, Law and their like.

Nations do not change over a century. The Field stated in 1863: "Football is important... because it is adapted to a special season when others are impracticable". And in 1890, Fergie Suter, one of the first professionals with Darwin and Blackburn, wrote: "The short passing game is a mistake... I don't want to discredit science, but there is room for more of the punch and run style." Well, ask Wimbledon, Or Taylor, Why do we still yearn for a Loffhouse, Hately or a Bull?

Foreigners may admire English action, yet I am sure the FA must reassess how the English game is played. One of Butler's misrepresentations is that Sir Harold Thompson, chairman from 1976 to 1981, understood the professional game. Thompson thought he did, yet made profound errors.

He conspired to prevent Walter Winterbottom succeeding Stanley Rous and to Rous becoming chairman when president of Fifa. Worse, Thompson sanctioned the most damaging appointment possible: of Don Revie, initiator of rampant physical expediency and described by Justice Cantley for his defection as a "notable example of disloyalty and breach of duty".

In 30 years since Rous's departure, the FA has wasted the opportunity, I believe, to exert an influence within Fifa to maintain football as a fair and skilful game in which the laws are upheld, or indeed changed, as with passing back to the goalkeeper. Football survives in spite of, rather than because of, its administration; and unless the FA does something about the style of players, in 20 years English football could find itself as internationally bankrupt as British tennis. Unless we have an all-black team.

□ The Official History of the Football Association, Queen Anne Press, £16.95

But Nasim-ul-Ghani, the first Pakistani Test player to score a century at Lord's, expressed dismay at the acceptance of the decision by the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan. "Pakistan should not have given its consent for such a controversial person," he said. (AFP)

Karachi — A dispute has arisen in Pakistan over the appointment of Donald Carr, the former England cricket captain, as referee for Sri Lanka's tour of Pakistan next month.

Carr has never been forgotten since he and some teammates allegedly assaulted Idris Beg, the Pakistan Test umpire, at Peshawar when he left the MCC side on a tour here in 1956. Carr was appointed as referee for the Sri Lanka tour by the International Cricket Council.

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Call for WRU to examine transfers

By OWEN JENKINS

JOHN Perkins, the Pontypool coach, has called on the Welsh Rugby Union to establish a working party to look into the transfer of players from one club to another.

Perkins is concerned at the way in which players in Wales change clubs and says that suggestions of inducements be looked into in an official capacity.

Perkins said: "A player should always be free to play for who he wants. But with all this innuendo about financial inducements I would like to see a working party with real teeth, to have the clout to go into the clubs and if they find any irregularities they could impose sanctions such as relegation and cutting out international tickets for a couple of years."

Perkins believes that loyalty to a club is not what it used to be and that some players have the wrong priorities and attitudes towards the game. He

added: "There is a band of mercenaries going around the circuit, but I wouldn't pay them in washers even the big names."

"You have to tell the international players that they must reach the standards and if they come up with the goods then we can talk."

□ Cape Town — Danie Craven, the South African Rugby Board president, and long-standing powerbroker in the game in South Africa, was admitted to the cardiac unit of the Tygerberg hospital here yesterday, it was reported by a television station.

Craven, aged 81, has already had open-heart surgery. A hospital spokesman said details of his condition would be released later today.

□ Graham Davies, the Wales B wing, is set to join Bridgend from Neath after being dropped. (AFP)

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